

HOCKEY

WORLD

NOVEMBER 1968

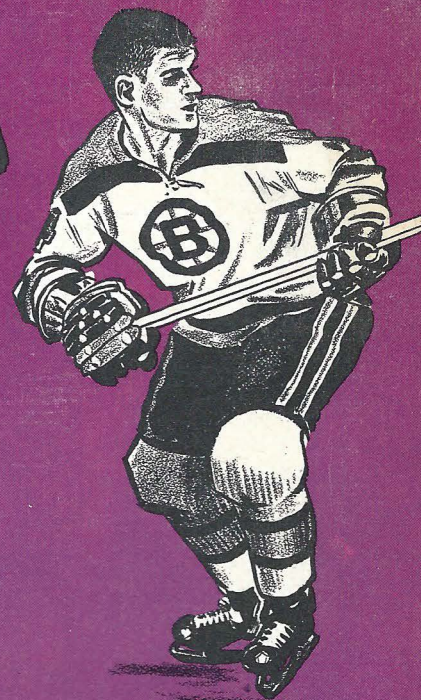
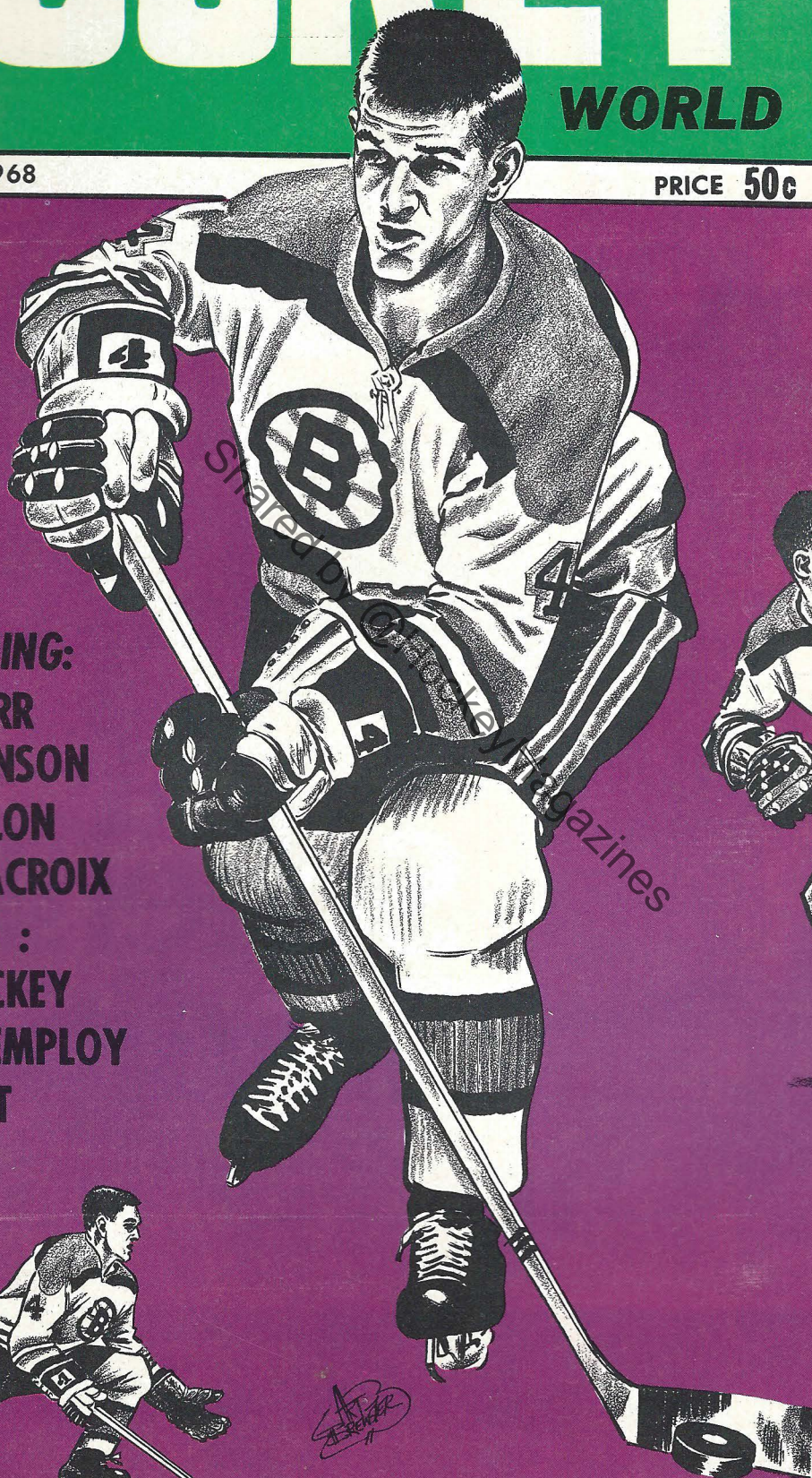
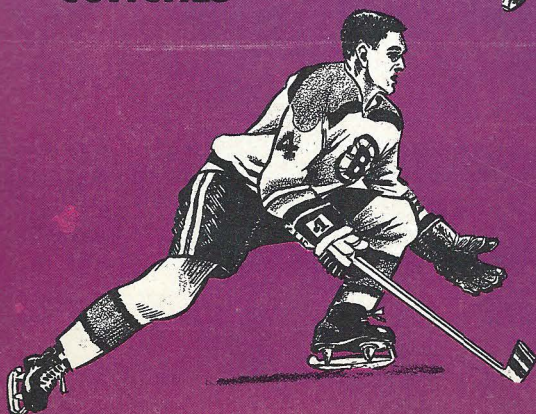
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FEATURING:

**BOBBY ORR
RED BERENSON
DAVE BALON
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ALSO :

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Bobby Hull

Shaking the hockey world out of its doldrums of pre-season exhibition game exercises and launching the new season in a blaze of publicity, this month's newsmaker supreme is the unquestioned choice for the Yardley honors.

He's the personable and enterprising young man who is the motivating force and the sole reason for being of Bobby Hull Enterprises — the fabulous Golden Jet himself.

Bobby Hull, hockey's most potent goal scoring machine of the present day, captured the headlines back from baseball to hockey by announcing his retirement just on the eve of the season opening. As it turned out, it was likely the briefest retirement on record — lasting less than two days.

Bobby, seeking a contract which would give him a tax-saving spreadout of salary paid over a period of several years instead of in vulnerable \$100,000 a year chunks, announced his "retirement" on a Thursday, shocking loyal hockey buffs. But when Chicago Black Hawks skated out Saturday for their opener, the Jet was very much back in the limelight, scoring a goal just to prove it. The "un-retired" Bobby Hull, then, is an easy choice as Yardley Player-of-the-Month.

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HOCKEY WORLD

The NHL Magazine, 4th Year Of Publication

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EDITORIAL

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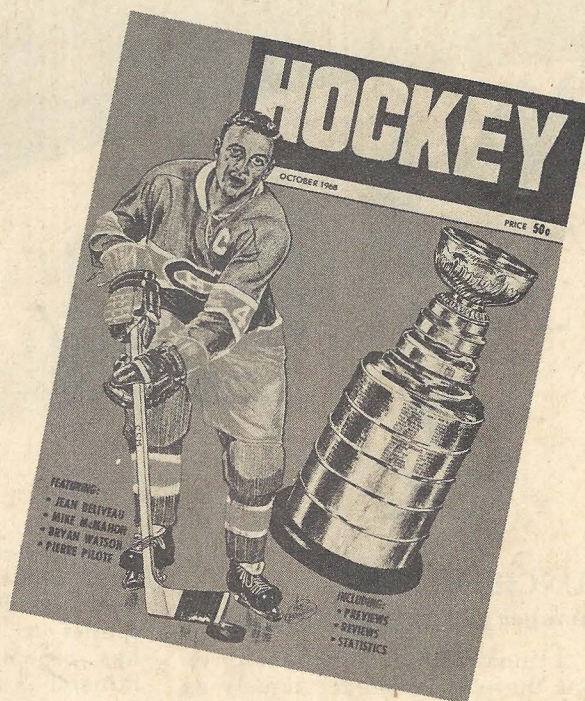
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QUOTE AND UNQUOTE

...A Variety Of Opinions
On A Variety Of Topics...

PUNCH IMLACH, manager and coach of Toronto:

"I think most hockey men agree that there is no player nearly as important to a team as a goalie. If you don't have a good goalie playing well, you're not going to win no matter what else you have and what else you do — it is that simple."

SAM POLLOCK, Montreal manager:

"Our goalie Rog Vachon is a case of a kid being a better pro than a junior. I don't know why. I guess some guys just mature later than others."

ROG VACHON, Canadiens' net-minder:

"I was very, very nervous in junior hockey. I used to be worried all the time. But now that I'm in the NHL, I'm not nervous any more. I've changed my mental outlook. Now when they score, I say to myself: 'The puck is in, so let's start over again.'"

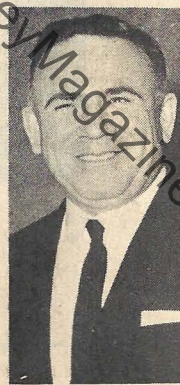
WAYNE RUTLEDGE, L.A. net-minder:

"The goalie is the key man on a team even if there are more talented men on the team. In some ways, playing goal in hockey is the toughest job in any sport. If the goalie makes a mistake, there's no one to cover up for him. The mistakes others make often are forgotten, even by the coaches. A player can give up a goal but can get it back. But the mistakes goalies make show up in the summary and are al-

ways remembered. A goalie gives up a goal and they forget the ones he kicked out. Everyone seems to know when a goalie has blown one, but the goalie himself is the only one who really knows. I know when I've just been beaten by a good shot and I know when I've missed a save I should have made. I also know when I stopped one I didn't figure to stop. I have bad games. Everyone does. The thing is, the better you are, the fewer bad games you have."



ROGATIEN VACHON



SAM POLLOCK

CESARE MANIAGO, Minnesota goal-tender:

"Why did I become a goalie? I must have been crazy. I guess I was forced into it by older brothers who wanted to practise their shots and needed someone to shoot against. Gradually, I came to enjoy it. I'm the tallest goalie in the NHL and I think my size helps me cover more of the net than other goalies. I go to my knees quite a bit. It's a style I developed. It works for me. I prefer an open game. Not that I want to be a target, but I like to handle some shots. It keeps me in the game. As

long as you're kept a little busy, you're kept sharp. I wore a mask for two years. I felt it was a hindrance, so I discarded it. I felt there were goals scored I could have seen and stopped. I feel more confident without it. I feel this is my livelihood, so I have to go the way I can do my best."

DICKIE DUFF, Veteran Montreal forward:

"When you're not scoring, you get a little worried. It sort of gets you down and you begin having negative thoughts about your ability and the length of your career. When you get a few goals, it keeps you going. You're relaxed only when things are going right."

NORM ULLMAN, ex-Detroit star now with Toronto:

"I'm allergic to something in the air in Toronto, I think. No kidding. I'm happy with the Toronto team. Everyone has treated me real well. But I don't know if I can play my best hockey in Toronto. I'm bothered by something in the air. I've noticed it for years, and now that I'm playing in Toronto full-time I'm worried about it."

EMILE FRANCIS, New York manager:

"Jim Nielson came into his own as a defenseman for us last season. I think he may have been the NHL's best defenseman by the end of the season. Sometimes it takes a player awhile to find

QUOTE AND UNQUOTE cont'd...



WAYNE RUTLEDGE



CESARE MANIAGO



NORM ULLMAN

himself and steady down and begin to play the sort of hockey of which he's capable, and I think Jim has reached that point."

WREN BLAIR,
manager and coach of Minnesota:

"An area in which hockey players could help themselves, but seldom do is physical strength. Few players work on the side to build up their strength. And the part strength plays in this game is overlooked. It is perhaps the biggest reason for Gordie Howe's success. He can go into a corner or get through a defender simply because he can manhandle other players with his free hand while riding the puck with his stick-hand. I remember one player was assigned to do nothing else but stay with Howe all night. The coach told him, "if Howe goes to the bath-room, you go, too." The guy stuck to Howe, too. And Howe, promptly scored a goal. When he got to the bench, the coach bawled him out. The poor guy said, "What could I do, coach? He grabbed me by the shirt and held me out with one arm. He had both my feet off the ice." Howe can do that. So can a few others. There are many things that can help a guy in this game, but the ability to move people around, not just knock them down, is one of the most important, and it is something the players could build up if they'd only be willing to sacrifice their free time and work for it."

NEXT MONTH IN WORLD



JACQUES LEMAIRE



LOWELL MacDonald

The December edition of **HOCKEY WORLD** will take an in-depth peek at three of the NHL's brightest young stars, Lowell MacDonald of Los Angeles Kings, Wayne Connelly of Minnesota North Stars and Jacques Lemaire of the Stanley Cup champion Montreal Canadiens.

Many other surprises are in store as **HOCKEY WORLD** attempts to take a look behind the scenes at the latest NHL developments.

In addition, regular Hockey World features will again be on tap, including the Quote and Unquote column, the Floating Forum, Foto Quiz, photo features, etc.



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"RED BARON" FOR MAYOR

By Norman MacLean

One March night in the Spring of 1962, Gordon "Red" Berenson was playing hockey at Utica for the University of Michigan in the N.C.A.A. final round. The next evening he was pastiming for the Montreal Canadiens against the Boston Bruins at Beantown. Gordon, a native of Regina, Sask. was a mere 23 at the time, yet a similar change literally overnight has made Berenson into the RED BARON of St. Louis.

One night in November of 1967, Red was a non-playing, non-scoring member of the fifth-place New York Rangers. The next day he was the leading center, penalty-killer and power-play specialist of the St. Louis Blues, who were destined to end up in the 1967-68 Stanley Cup finals.

In fact, Berenson came so far that by playoff time, the Blues' new fans were comparing him with another number nine and another Gordon, Gordie Howe. This is really not fair to either Howe or Berenson, but in the minds of the new Mound City afficiandos Gordon was Mr. St. Louis Blue.

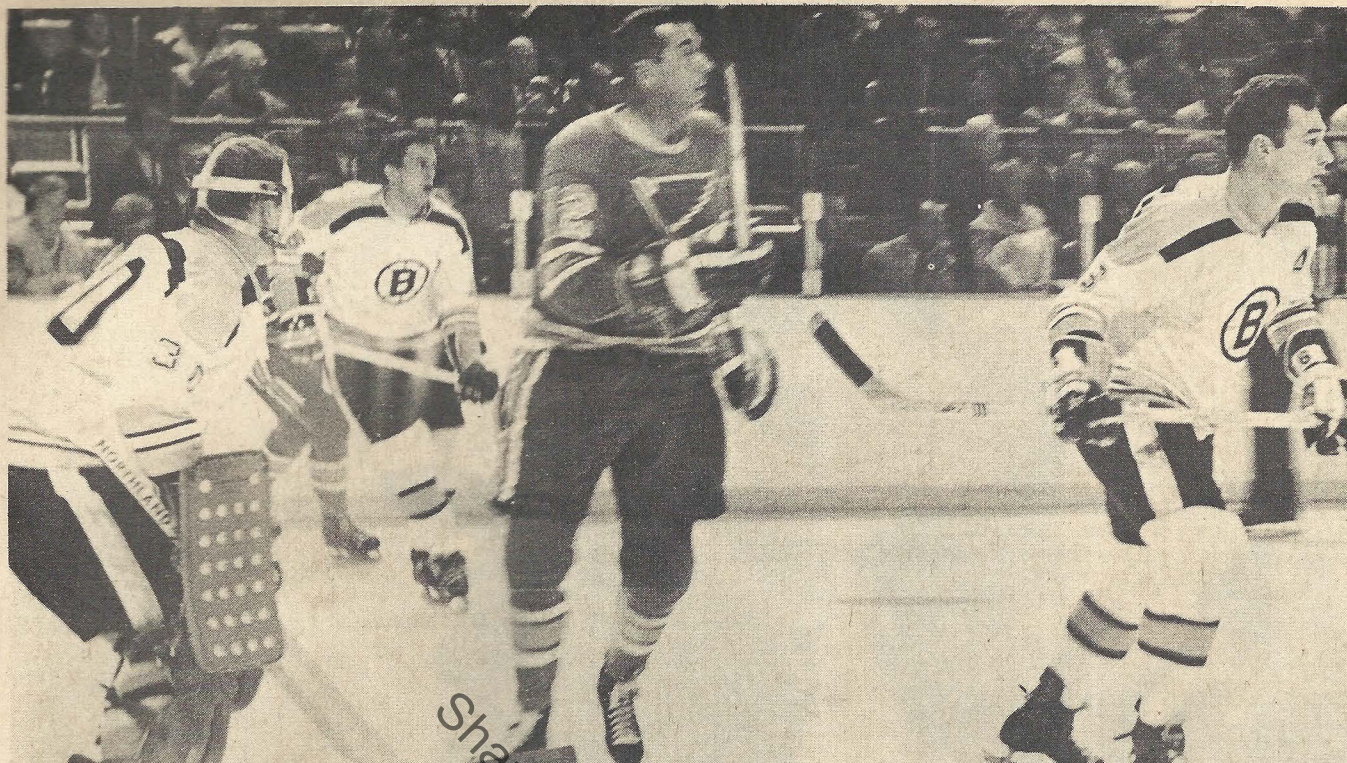


He had earned this approbation with 22 goals and 29 assists in 55 games with the expansion team after the trade in which St. Louis sent its top scorer, the still-effective Ron Stewart to New York. And he won the appellation as the "most exciting player" in the Western Division.

This was quite a turnaround for the man who had gone through a complete campaign and the Stanley Cup playoffs in 1966-67 with New York without scoring a single goal. That's right — not even one little red light. The closest Red had come was in New York's last gasp stand in the fourth and final loss to Montreal. In overtime, with the tally knotted at 0-0, Berenson went in alone on Goalie Rogatien Vachon, pulled Vachon and blazed away — only to see his shot hit the outside post square on.

When 1967-68 started Berenson was definitely an

To St. Louis hockey fans, Red Berenson has become "Mr. St. Louis Blue".



In order to secure Berenson, Blues sent their high scorer, Ron Stewart (12), above, to New York.

extra with New York and did not even dress for all the games. By April signs were being hung in the St. Louis Arena proclaiming RED BARON for MAYOR.

"All I told Berenson when he reported was that he was going to play between 35 and 40 minutes and work both the power play and our penalty killing units," recalls Scotty Bowman, the Blues' young 34-year-old coach.

This was what Berenson had been waiting for. Back in his days at Michigan he had been the top banana and apparently he needed this kind of boost to come to the fore again.

Berenson rushes to explain, "This is not a knock on Emile Francis. He is a perfect gentleman and simply had to use the fellows who had won for him in the past. Also he waited before announcing the trade until he could call me and wish me luck."

Be that as it may, Berenson suffered from the shorts with New York, meaning no goals and not enough ice time. With St. Louis the red head with the brilliant blue helmet was the team leader from the time he reported.

"Actually, it was very similar to Michigan. At college I had a good time and played good hockey. The same holds true in St. Louis, smiled Red.

That Red Berenson is something special is well known. First, of course, is his hockey ability. He has that Masters Degree in Business Administration. Not many of the head knockers in pro sports boast those things. He is an expert on Indian lore and has been known to carry a canoe around on top of his car wherever he goes. He would like to live in Alaska — and he even would consider being a lawyer. And his 55-inch stick is the longest in

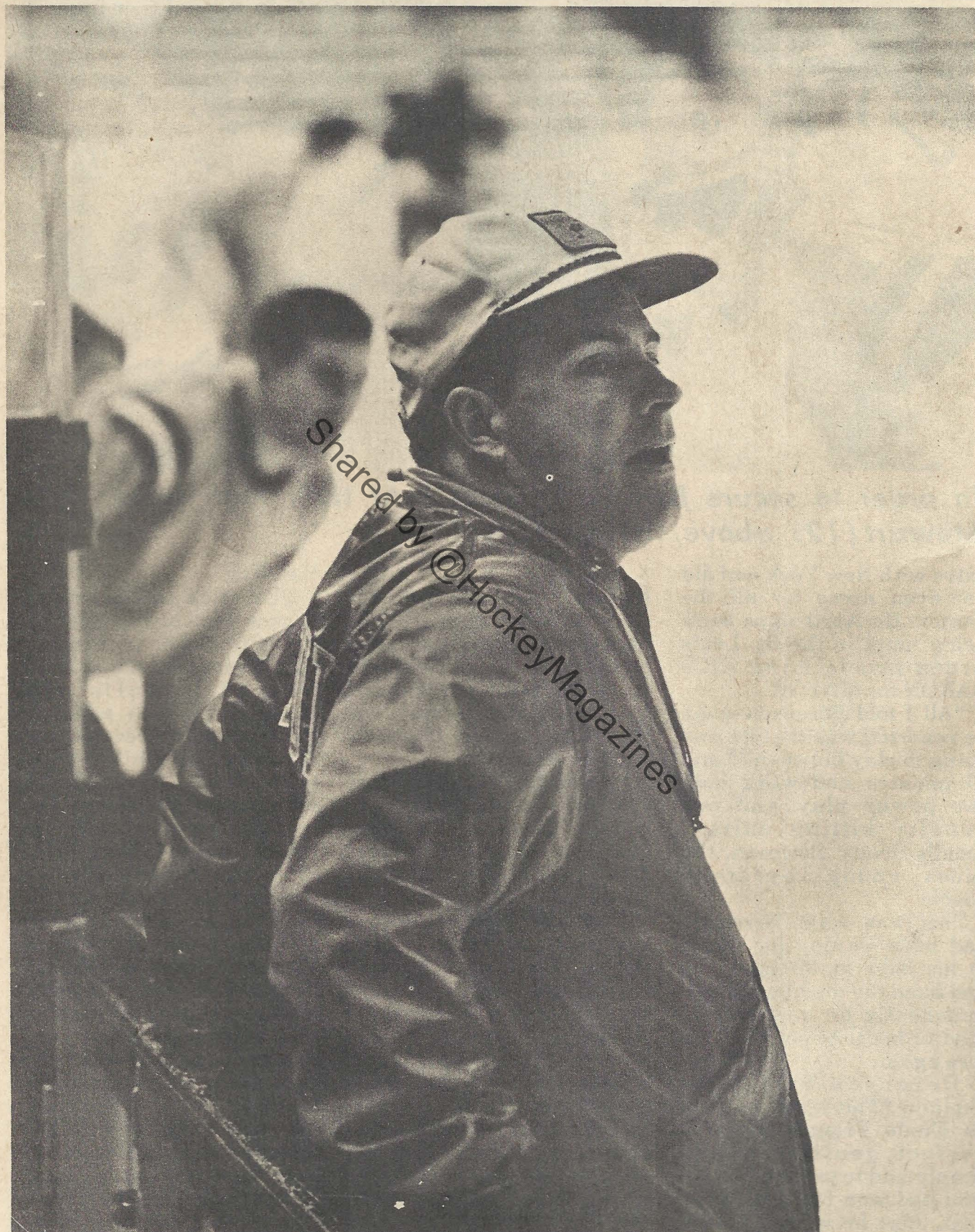
the NHL.

That stick and its long arc makes him one of the best fore-checkers in the loop and it wins about four out of five of faceoffs. The Rangers used to pull such experienced types as Jean Ratelle and Phil Goyette and insert Red for key defensive end faceoffs.

When Berenson won some newspaper polls as the MVP of the new Western Division, it reminded observers that back in his college days he had been the MVP of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association and had set a scoring record for Michigan of 43 goals in 28 games.

All of which brings us to the point of this epistle. Gordon "Red" Berenson was great in college, a so-so checker with Montreal and New York and great again in what must be analyzed as the weaker division of the NHL. Can he carry on from here and do it again and would he do it in the old line

Baron-Booster



One of Berenson's biggest boosters is Blues' coach Scotty Bowman, who felt deal for Red "was too good to pass up."



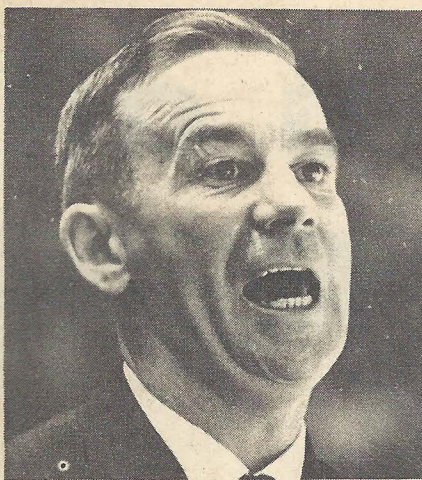
BERNIE GEOFFRION
... taught shot

East if given the chance?

"First of all," says Red, "I am very happy here in St. Louis and certainly think that I can do at least as well as last year. You notice we beat the Rangers 5-4 in our first exhibition game and I think we can keep it up. When I played with Montreal or New York, if I had a bad shift that was it for the night. Someone like Jean Beliveau or Rod Gilbert can do this and nothing is said, but a fringe player is always on the hook when he makes a mistake."

Another thing is the fact that to some extent Red was outside of the establishment in both Montreal and New York. In Montreal, he suffered the fate of most English speaking non-French players, particularly English speaking non-French fringe players.

At New York, it was more complicated. His only full Ranger season of 1966-67 consisted of 30 games of partial playing, mainly due to two serious injuries. First he suffered a broken jaw and then a broken foot on the way to his big failure in the playoff overtime battle. Also Red was a different breed of man than most of the Rangers. For one thing



EMILE FRANCIS
... stabilized position

he was the only man who wore a helmet with New York in 1966-67, although Larry Jeffrey now wears one.

With St. Louis he gets ice — and he gets goals — and his other interests make him unusual and a leader to the Blues, not someone who is odd or way out. And he wears his old college number, nine, not the rather undistinguished twenty two that he sported with New York, or the twenty-four that was his Montreal identification. As far as St. Louis is concerned, Gordon wears number nine, is a Westerner and scores goals

like another number nine, and another westerner, Howe.

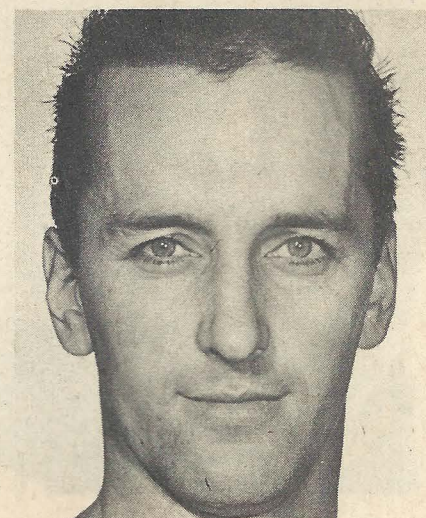
Berenson has even been questioned in the past about being too intelligent to be a good hockey player.

"I don't know, some men who seem quite ignorant off the ice turn out to be very smart and heady when playing and others who are literally ice generals make a mess of their private lives and also seem to lack common sense," is Red's answer.

This season Berenson is still working on his shooting. He has never been a prolific scorer except perhaps in college and he reasons that all the shooting practice he can get will help.

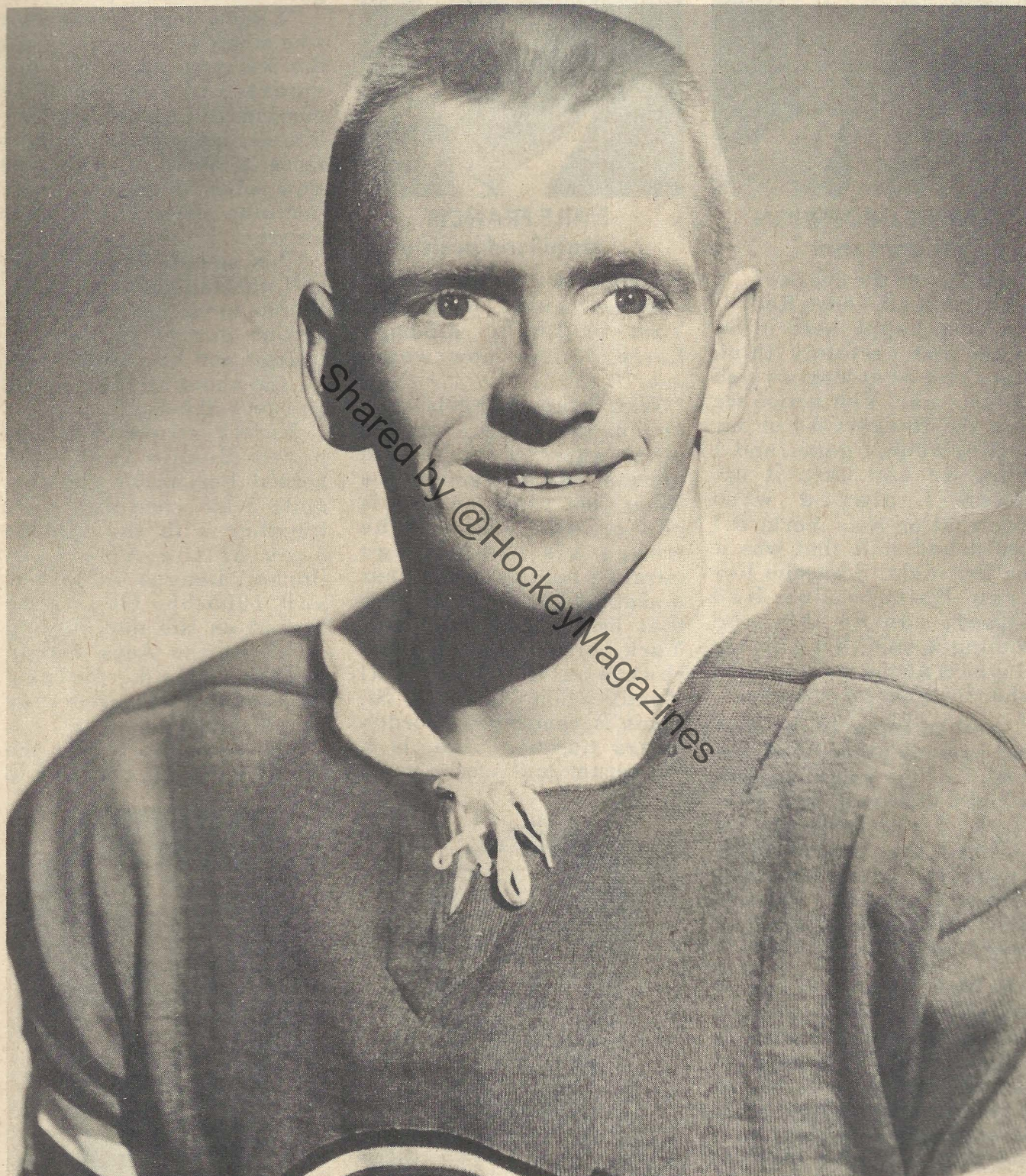
Newly-minted Ranger coach Bernie Geoffrion helped Berenson's shooting quite a bit when they were together with the Quebec Aces of the American Hockey League in 1964-65 and 1965-66. Geoffrion served as the non-playing coach of the Aces and in Red's mind helped Berenson's offensive play tremendously.

One favor he thinks the Rangers did for him was to



Though Berenson was Blues' big gun down stretch, he was outshone in playoffs by Dickie Moore, left, and Frank St. Marseille, right.

What a difference



When he was with Montreal Canadiens, left, and later with New shift to St. Louis saw him suddenly catch fire with 24 goals, 30

a uniform makes!



York Rangers, right, Berenson enjoyed only mediocre seasons. A assists for his most successful NHL campaign ever.

definitely establish his position as that of a center.

"At Montreal, Coach Toe Blake did use me a bit at center — and I really played in the Stanley Cup playoffs the first year I was up because they wanted a big center against the Black Hawks — and I got some ice as Henri Richard was out. However, Blake must have decided that I wouldn't make it in the NHL at center because he almost always played me at wing after that, even in the 1964-65 Playoffs, when we won the Cup and I took Dave Balon's spot when he was hurt. A funny thing was the fact that when I was sent down to Quebec, I always played center. When I got to New York, Emile Francis announced that I was a center and that is where I played for the Rangers," muses Red.

When Berenson went to St. Louis last year, he had improved on his goal-less record of two years ago. In 19 games of partial activity Red had two goals and one assist. With the Blues he got the aforementioned 22 goals and 29 assists for 51 points in 55 games. In the playoffs he got 5 goals and 2 assists for 7 points in 18 games but was outshone by ancient Dickie Moore and the oldish rookie Frank St. Marseille.

Bowman recalls, "It was a tough trade to make (the Ron Stewart for Berenson swap last November) because at the time, Stewart was our leading goal scorer with seven and really the only man who could play the point on the power play. We didn't have Moore then and the club was really floundering. Still Stew was 35 then and Red only 27. I figured I couldn't pass it up. Actually the deal helped both clubs as New York used

Stewart on their checking line and drove from fifth place to second. We made our move and went from last to third — and then really did it up Blue in the playoffs. I think that it was just a matter of the right man in the right place for both teams."



SID SALOMON III
... Florida reward

Berenson also feels this to be the case and emphasizes that he felt that he had to respond in St. Louis as both Bowman and the fans were counting upon him. A visit to the refurbished St. Louis Arena will show you what we mean. It has the air and atmosphere of Ebbets Field of Brooklyn Dodger fame or of Milwaukee's County Stadium in the first five years (1953-58) that the Boston Braves had moved to the midwest. Buglers blow "charge" and the organist pipes the St. Louis sextet onto the ice to "When the Saints Go Marching in."

To make the scene complete, the fans, who are really not that ice-sophisticated yet, clap in rhythmic bursts of applause, much like baseball afficiandos, when they are trying to stir a Blue rally.

Jack Gordon, the Assistant General Manager

of the New York Rangers, who literally lived out of a suitcase last season while scouting the Expansion Division for New York, says, "The fans get through to even neutral observers. You are sitting there and marking your charts and then the organ strikes up and the fans start singing and clapping and without realizing it you are joining in with them. It is infectious and has to be part of the reason why St. Louis is so successful."

Perhaps Berenson, the collegiate hero, responded to the campus-type adulation and small city rooting that St. Louis gave to its fledgling Blues a year ago and has continued to do this season.

"There is no doubt that the fans fired us up in the playoffs last year. In New York, I really didn't care whether I played at home or on the road, but I look forward to playing in St. Louis. Also, Mr. Salomon (Sidney Salomon, The Blues, owner) has been wonderful to us — and even sent us all to Florida for an expense paid vacation after the playoffs last year," says Berenson.

Berenson and all the Blues say that they knew that their club had jelled a year ago in a January game with the Rangers. New York jumped off to a 3-0 lead which the St. Louis aggregation slowly chipped away at. Berenson got a third period tying goal and Billy McCreary, a former Ranger farmhand, got the winner.

"After that game, we knew we had a team. I hope that we can do a bit better in the regular season and eventually bring the Stanley Cup to the wonderful people here in St. Louis," says Red ●

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CAN RED WINGS KEEP PUCK OUT?

By Lewis H. Walter

"There's no question we can score goals. Our problem will be to keep the puck out of our own net."

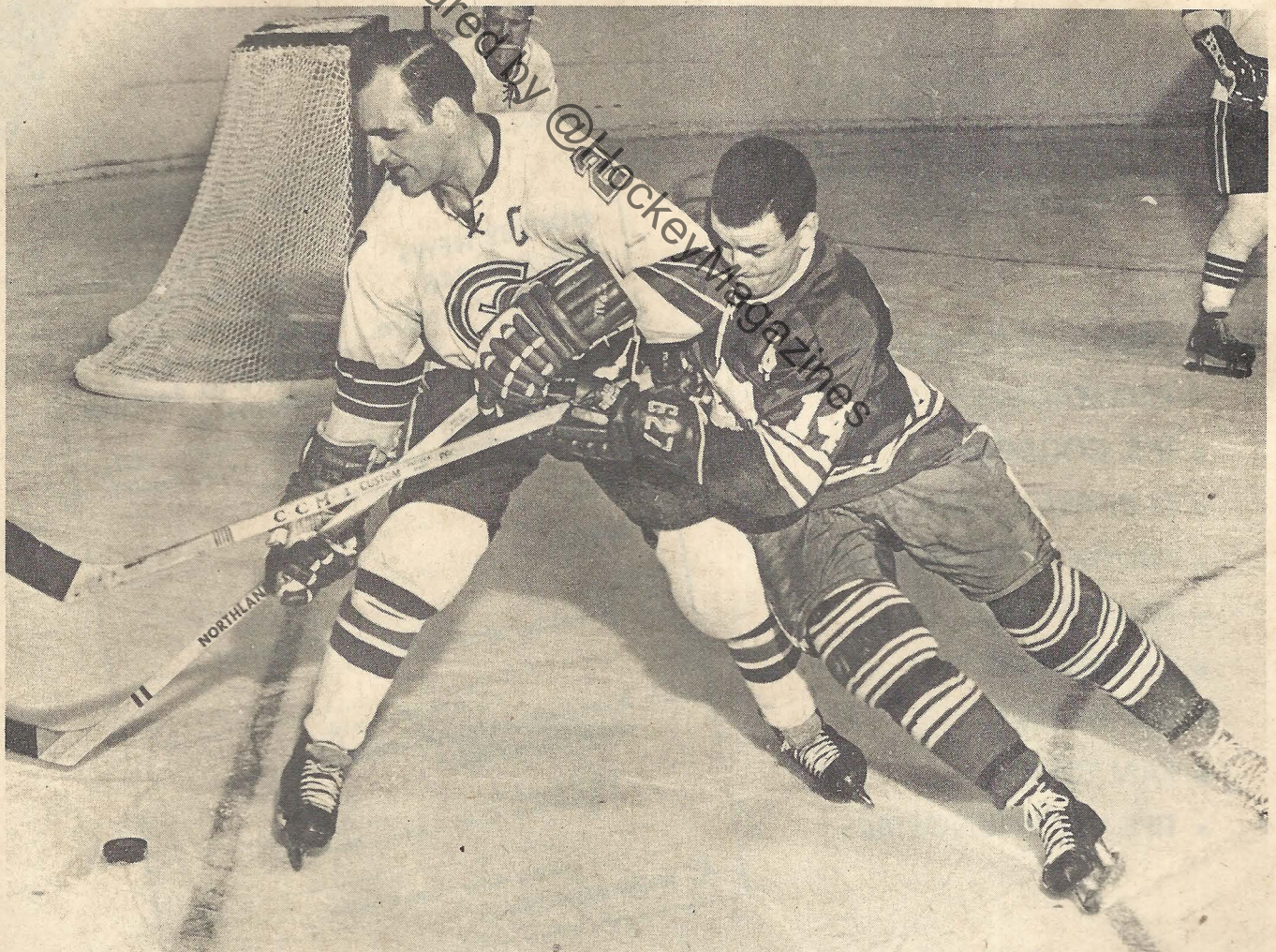
General Manager Sid Abel says the answer is obvious for a Detroit Red Wings club that last year scored more goals — and had more scored against it — than any previous Detroit hockey team.

Abel and his new coach, Bill Gadsby, have joined with the rest of the Detroit command in tearing apart the once-proud club which last year missed the National

Hockey League playoffs for the second successive season.

This missing the playoffs was grim business for Abel, who played for Detroit in the days when they won seven straight pennants and eight out of nine NHL championships.

As a result of surprising trades, drafts and moved-ups from the minors, the 18-man Detroit squad opens the campaign with at least ten men who weren't wearing the red jerseys at the start of last season.



One of big Red Wing plusses in attempt to bone up porous defense was acquisition of Bob Baun, ex-Oakland Seals captain, seen here fending off Toronto's Dave Keon (14), above.



Detroit rookie coach Bill Gadsby, left, hopes that two other Oakland castoffs — Kent Douglas, centre, and Ron Harris, right — can join Baun in solidifying Wings' blueline corps.

If Abel's analysis of his team's problem is correct, the key man in the Detroit lineup will be squat, broad-shouldered Bobby Baun, the onetime Toronto blueliner whom the Wings obtained late in May.

After a season of ineffective play by the Detroit defense, Abel needed no goading to swing the deal in which the Wings gave Oakland defenseman Howie Young, left wing Gary Jarrett, right wing Doug Roberts and Chris Worthy, an amateur goaltender. In exchange Detroit received Baun, 31 and right wing Ron Harris, 25.

"We need someone who can hit — make them keep their heads up," said Abel. "And Bob Baun can deliver. First, of course, he is a sound tactical player, but he hits — and that's what we need."

Abel also has in the back of his mind the hope that he may get a pleasant surprise from Carl Brewer, the former Toronto Maple Leaf hard rock, to whom he has obtained bargaining rights.

Although Brewer said last spring it was definite that he was going to Finland as a player-coach, Abel nurses the idea that a few months around Helsinki may be enough for Brewer.

"Remember, Carl can't play in the NHL until Dec. 18, according to the present rule. By that time he may be thinking fondly about playing back here," says Sid. "If he joined us everyone would know we had a rack 'em up defense."

Brewer, former NHL All-Star defenseman, dropped out of the big time

after a contract dispute several years ago with Leafs' coach, Punch Imlach. He has been a playing coach at Muskegon of the International League.

Who are the other defensemen on whom the Red Wings are counting?

At this point they are the veteran Gary Bergman; Kent Douglas, for whom Detroit traded Bert Marshall to Oakland in midseason; Bart Crashley and Jim Watson, young players who saw some service with the Redshirts last season and Bob Falkenberg, a product of the Detroit system who finished strong last year.

The depth of the overhaul is thus indicated by the fact that three of the six Detroit defensemen were not with the club when the last campaign started.

Detroit dealt off Bert Marshall, a young and promising prospect who seemed to be taking too long to mature and did not hit with authority; Howie Young, who conquered some of his personal problems but seemed to lose his zest and determination; big Bob McCord, who had the courage but could not seem to match the NHL pace, and Jean-Guy Talbot, the ex-Montreal Canadien whom they grabbed during the season in a desperation move.

Now the Wings hope for big things from Douglas, in particular. The Calder Trophy winner with Toronto in '62-'63 played brilliantly at times but was not in the best shape when he reported to Detroit in the Marshall trade.

"Kent could be a big help going both ways," asserts Abel.

What about the goalie these rear guards will be defending?

Detroit has Roger Crozier, the Calder Trophy winner who helped the Wings finish first in his first NHL campaign ('64-'65). Crozier had problems last year and left the club in November suffering from shell shock after several bad beatings. He returned to give his best in a losing cause.

"We've got to figure on Crozier because he's a major leaguer," declares Abel. "But we may have some fair men behind him who can earn a chance."

These goalies are Terry Sawchuk, Roy Edwards, Don McLeod and Buddy Blom. Edwards, 31, saw service with Detroit last year while McLeod turned pro from the Edmonton Juniors, was shifted around the minors and finally finished in the American League finals as goalie for the Springfield Kings. Sawchuk was recently reacquired from L.A. for Jim Peters Jr.

Blom, a Denver U. graduate, is an Eastern Canada boy who played two years ago for San Diego. Detroit turned him pro last season and he was good enough to keep George Gardner out of the lineup for the final 25 games last season.



Terry Sawchuk, moving here to block shot by Wings' Jim Watson, has rejoined Detroit for third time via Toronto and Los Angeles. A comeback by Terry would help.



Not to be forgotten is Detroit's first-string goalie, former Conn Smythe Trophy winner Roger Crozier, moving nimbly here to keep Canadiens' Yvan Cournoyer from scoring.

With all of these changes coming up behind the Detroit blue line, the Red Wings' general manager is placing major reliance on the man who has been chosen to stop the "goals against" debacle Detroit suffered in the last campaign.

That new man is Bill Gadsby, 20-year NHL veteran who retired in 1966 after playing his last five seasons with the Red Wings.

"I think Gadsby, as a former defenseman, will straighten out some of our problems. He'll want to play it closer," commented Abel.

"We feel we can score goals, of course. With Gordie Howe, Alex Delvecchio, Frank Mahovlich, Gary Unger and Dean Prentice, we shouldn't have too many worries on that score.

"We think Pete Mahovlich can get into

gear and we have another proven goal scorer in Bruce McGregor.

"So with a general tightening up and someone back on the blue line who can do a little belting, we could see a real Red Wing rebirth".

Reviewing last season's disaster, Abel says in identical circumstances he might make the same moves again. The Wings had early goaltending problems and when they began to flounder the club brass made wholesale changes. Crozier's bombing, which resulted in his November desertion, compounded problems.

The Wings let Marshall go and the coming of Douglas pepped up the club for awhile but the slump hit again. The Wings brass believes that the team played wide open hockey in desperation and was outscored in rallies. Prime example of this was when Los Angeles made an almost

STILL THE GREATEST

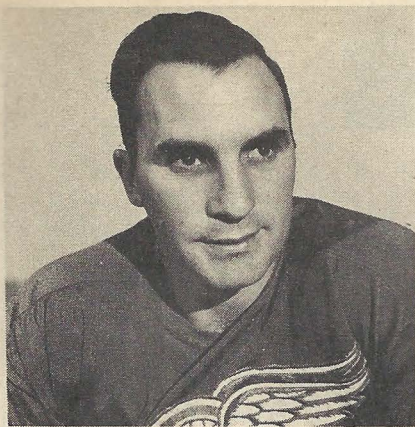


Back for his 22nd NHL season is Red Wings' senior citizen and hockey's all-time greatest scorer, Gordie Howe.

unbelievable comeback to win after being four goals down at Olympia.

"We tried a record 38 players,

practically everyone we could bring up or deal for," said Abel. "We tried so many youngsters who didn't pan out but we did



DEAN PRENTICE



PETER STEMKOWSKI



FRANK MAHOVLICH

have the satisfaction of knowing we had tried everyone.

"For instance, we used every defenseman on the Fort Worth farm club with the exception of one rookie. They all had a chance to show what they had in the big time.

The Wings missed the playoffs by 14 points and were last in their division, 10 points behind the fifth-place Toronto Maple Leafs, Stanley Cup winners the previous year.

Although the Red Wing defensive record appears to tell the story, Abel doesn't blame Detroit's failure last year entirely on the rearguards. Big league hockey is a two-way game, the Detroit manager points out. Detroit didn't have a two-way team. Some of the most prestigious forwards appeared to be going one way, running up big goal counts while the net bulged behind them.

Two of the chief offenders appeared to be the high-scoring Norm Ullman and Paul Henderson, whom Detroit traded off to Toronto. Ullman had been famed for his forechecking but fell off in this department last year while keeping his goal-scoring pace.

"We would look at Normie's record and wonder how he was doing it because he didn't seem to be playing that well," said Abel. "And Henderson only went in short spurts, whereas we had counted on him to be one of our big men.

"After all, Gordie Howe can't carry the load forever, as much as we would like to think so."

Whenever Abel looks at Howe, he feels like making a deep bow to the big fellow who made All-Star right wing in his 22nd NHL season. Thousands of Detroiters and hockey excursionists from out of State and from Canada agree that a view of the

great Gordie in action is still worth the price of admission to Olympia. Howe's play helped keep Olympia filled to standing room only for almost every game despite the club's low position in the standings.

This time Howe will be getting aid up front from five forwards who have come since the start of last season. Three of them are Maple Leaf-developed.

The Toronto products are the famed Frank Mahovlich at left wing, Pete Stemkowski and Garry Unger, centers. Stemkowski, in particular, is counted upon for defensive strength.

The other new regulars are expected to be Peter Mahovlich, who appeared to be finding himself with Detroit last spring and Ron Anderson, the Red Deer, Alta., right wing developed in the Detroit system.

The Red Wings will also weigh the capabilities of young Ron Harris, the Verdun, Que. native who came in the deal with Baun. Harris played right wing for Oakland but since he started as a defenseman may get a shot at a rearguard spot.

How does Abel feel about giving up the Red Wing coaching to be a full time general manager? The word is — "Relief".

"For years I've been forced to go with players brought up without my having had a chance to look them over.

"Now I'm going out to weigh some of them myself."

One of Abel's big moves has been to name Baz Bastien as head of the scouting program with Doug Barkley as his aide. Baz was Sid's assistant as coach last year.

"Don't worry about the Red Wings! Were advancing on all fronts," declares Abel. ●

A Floating Forum....

HOCKEY'S TOUGHEST PENALTIES



SCOTTY MORRISON

QUESTION: What is the most difficult penalty to call?

IAN "SCOTTY" MORRISON,

referee-in-chief of the NHL:
 "Interference. That is, mainly as far as the fans are concerned. The main question is, who was interfering with who? And many do not realize you cannot interfere, as such, with the man with the puck or with the man who has just passed the puck on, only with someone not immediately involved in the puck play. Thus a man may pass the puck, then be hit, and no penalty is called. When the same man, who has not just handled the puck, is hit in the same way on the next play and a penalty is called, the fans holler because they cannot understand what seems to them to be an inconsistency in officials' calls."

is called the least is when a player comes up behind an offensive man standing near the goal and high-sticks him or spears him in the back. It is a dangerous thing and a very cowardly thing and it should be called so closely it will be eliminated from the game."

MILT SCHMIDT,
manager of the Boston Bruins:

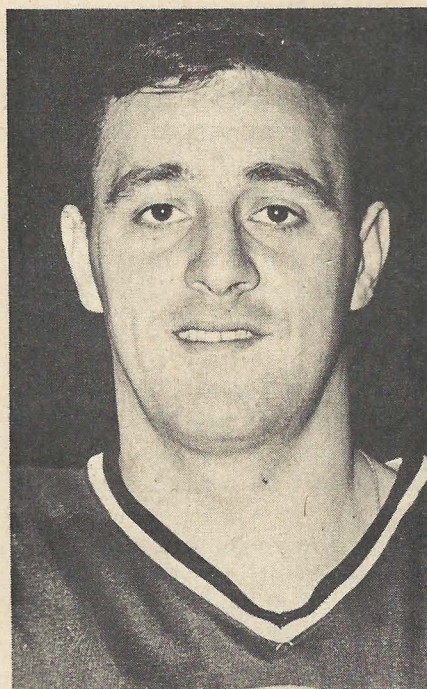
"I'd say interference is the hardest penalty to call, especially offensive interference. Players get away with a lot of forechecking that violates the rules. We discuss this every year and keep tightening up on it and I think we'll get it down eventually."

JOHN D'AMICO,
young NHL referee:

"Interference is the hardest penalty to call, I think. The whole game of hockey is interference, really, isn't it? It's difficult to determine when the actions of players crosses that thin line that determines whether one man has interfered with another. It's more purely a judgement call than most that we have to handle in hockey."

ART SKOV,
veteran NHL referee:

"Interference, anywhere on the ice, but especially in front of the goal. It is difficult to tell who is interfering with whom quite often. When you have the puck in front of the net, you have to be watching the puck and a lot of different players — the defensemen and the goal-keepers as well as the attacking players, and there's almost always a great deal of pushing and shoving going on. Interference is a difficult judgment call."



PHIL ESPOSITO

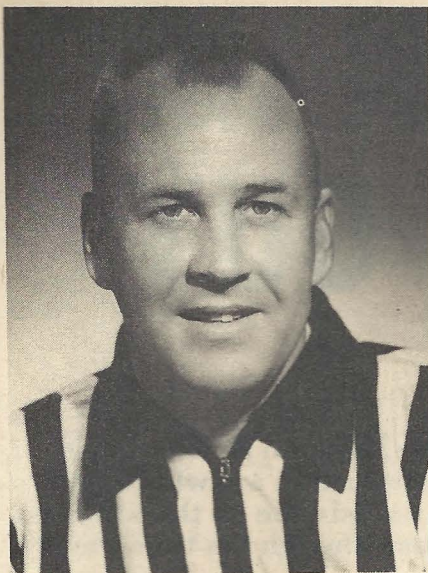
SCOTTY BOWMAN,
coach of the St. Louis Blues:

"Plays in the goal mouth. The referee has to be watching the puck, so he can't be watching the men up above, can he? I think more players get away with more infractions when the puck is right in front of the net than at any other time."

PHIL ESPOSITO,
Boston Bruin center:

"Checking in the goal-mouth, I think. When you take up a position in front of the goal and a player rams you in your back with his stick from behind, it's an infraction, but it's seldom called. I hate that with a passion."

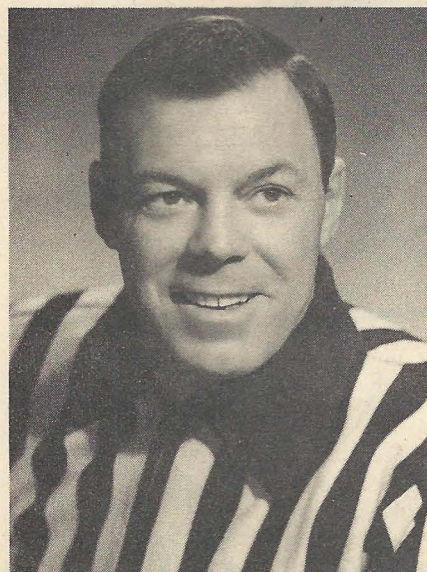
RED KELLY,
Coach of the Los Angeles Kings:
 "Checking in front of the goal. The worst offense in hockey which



ART SKOV



BRUCE HOOD



LLOYD GILMOUR

BRUCE HOOD,

young NHL referee:

"I would say boarding or charging. It is purely judgment as to if the act was serious enough to constitute an infraction. You have to consider the degree of violence—did he ride him off the puck and so forth."

* * *

WREN BLAIR,

Minnesota manager and coach:

"I would think holding and interference, because they are complete judgment calls. In a game that has so much body contact naturally and in which the referees are aware the players are under orders from their managers and coaches to use their bodies and ride their men out of the play, in which they are just doing what they are paid to do and expected to do, the refs must be reluctant to call infractions of this sort too closely. Of course there are a lot of little infractions smart players get away with in the corners and outside of the puck area, but generally I would think interference poses the main problem for the referee."

LLOYD GILMOUR,

NHL referee:

"They're all tough to call. You have to rely on your experience and judgment to back up your knowledge of the rule book. Hooking is tough because it's easy to conceal. Tripping is tough because you have to decide the intent. If the man comes up with the puck, he can have tripped the other player half the length of the ice and it's not tripping because he proved his intent was to get the puck. Penalty-shots are tough because you have to be sure the man fouled from behind had a clean and open chance to shoot. If he gets off any kind of a shot, even a weak one, you can't call a penalty shot because he hasn't been deprived of the chance to shoot. Interference is the most misunderstood because many do not realize you cannot "interfere" with the man who has the puck or the man who last had the puck. You can foul him in other ways, but you can't "interfere" with him."

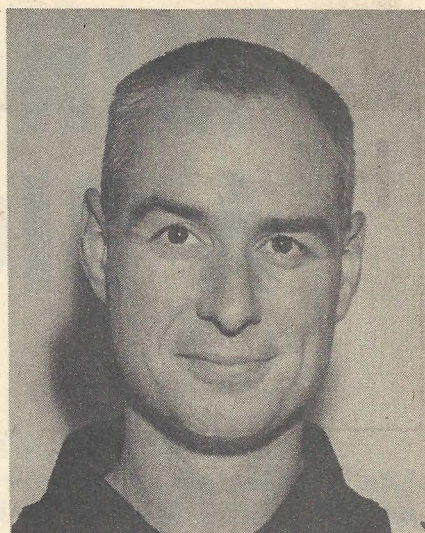
* * *

KEN "JIGGS"

MacDONALD,

L.A. Kings' broadcaster:

"Face-off interference. It may sound strange. The rule is there."



JOHN ASHLEY

But it is violated constantly. If they were to call every interference infraction that occurs on face-offs, the penalty-box would be full of players and there would be no one left on ice to play the game. So they have to use their judgment."

* * *

ED FITKIN,

L.A. Kings' broadcaster:

"The penalty shot, I think, because it is so important and because it is so much a judgment call. The referee has to decide whether the man had a real opportunity to score had he not been fouled. If he decides this, it is almost like awarding the other team a goal because the penalty shot results in a score most of the time. It is not called very often. It is hockey's most exciting play when it is called."

* * *

JOHN ASHLEY,

veteran NHL referee:

"I think it depends on the situation in the game. You're not supposed to be aware of the score of the game, but you are. In a close game, it's difficult to make a close call with time running out. I guess the test of a referee is his ability to be consistent in his calls and to use good judgment on his calls. They're all tough to call and they're all easy to call. The rules are in the book and the referee is on the ice to see that the players follow the rules. However, if you called everything that happened in violation of the rules the penalty boxes would be filled up and we could all go home after five minutes because there'd be no one left to play the game."

"MINNIE" MENARD A BIG LITTLE GUY

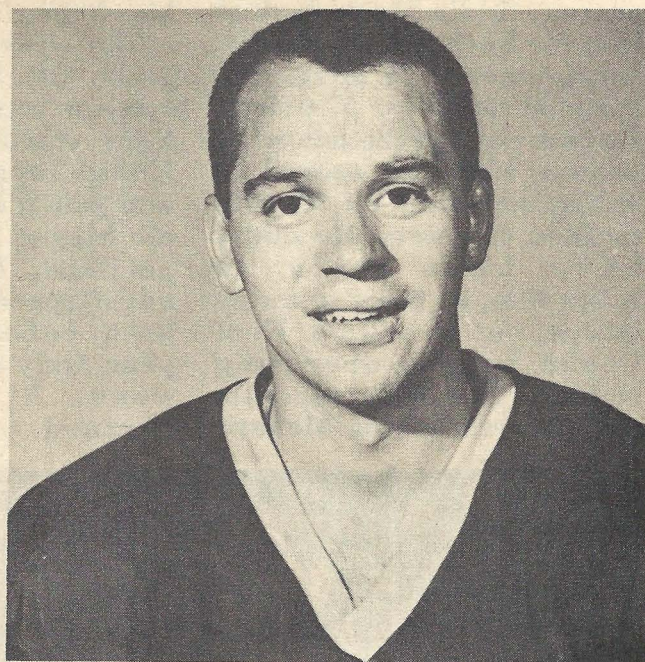
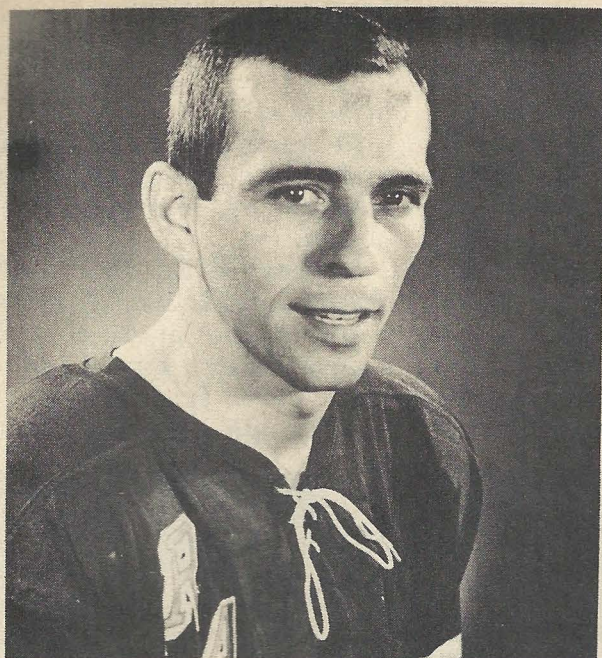
By **BILL LIBBY**

When asked if Howie Menard was the smallest man in the National Hockey League, Los Angeles manager Larry Regan said, "Heck, he's the smallest man anywhere. "He's not, of course. He just looks like he is. But at 5-6 and 160 pounds, he is the smallest performer in hockey's major leagues. He's also one of the best, though it's taken him a while to prove it.

No matter what managers and coaches say about size not mattering, it does. Small players simply do not get the opportunity to prove themselves that big guys do. Menard has been a pretty good pro for six seasons, but he had only three games in the NHL prior to last season, and it was not until midway of last season that he got a real chance in the big time.



Howie Menard of L.A. Kings falls to the ice after blasting shot at Detroit goalie Roger Crozier. Kent Douglas (5) moves in to clear.



Menard, right, tallied first NHL goal last January against Rangers' Ed Giacomin, left.

There is not a player in sports who hustles harder than Howie Menard. He is digging every single second he is on the ice. He chases his foes, pestering them relentlessly. Although small, he checks hard and frequently threatens to fight men much larger than he is. He doesn't back down an inch at any time.

And he's good, too. He played effective defense, controlled the puck slickly, and shot brilliantly, especially in the clutch last season. In his half-season, he had only nine goals, but, most remarkably, five of these were game-winners. And he also assisted on a sixth. It is a cliché, but he is a little man with a big heart. He is at his best when it counts.

As he enters this season, he seems finally to have established himself as a big-leaguer. Kings' manager Regan says, "He gives 100 percent, and he plays well." Kings' coach Red Kelly says, "He turned out to be

one of my most valuable players."

Menard says, "I think now I've proven I can play in the majors. I always felt I could. I was up three games before, but what can you do in that short time? I've always hustled hard. When you're small you have to. It's the only way I know to play."

"I enjoy playing. I didn't find it much tougher in the majors than the minors. Really, I doubt that I'll ever be a great star, but I think I can do a job up here. I figured I've had a lot of wasted years behind me. I Look forward to this next season."

Next season is now and Menard is ready.

Howie was born April 28, 1942, in Timmins, Ontario. His dad, Alphonse, was a gold miner, of all things.

Howie was one of ten children. He has eight brothers. A couple of them played amateur hockey. One, Hillary, nicknamed "Minnie," as is Howie was a standout who passed up pro

chances, and last year was blinded in one eye when struck while playing senior amateur hockey in his spare time. The accident to Hillary, a salesman married and with three kids, really hit Howie hard. "It's a tough game," he sorrowed.

Signed by the Detroit organization, Howie played Junior A in the Ontario Hockey Association for Hamilton which he captained. He turned pro in the 1962-63 season with Pittsburgh in the American League, scoring 16 goals and setting up 29 others. In 1964, he played for Cincinnati in the Central League, scoring twenty-five goals and assisted on 37 for his career-high haul of 62 points. The tough little guy also had 75 minutes in penalties. He had his three-game hitch with Detroit that season.

In 1965 he played with Memphis in the Central League but suffered an eye injury and scored only nine goals. He also had 33 assists. After that disappointing

season, Eddie Shore drafted him for Springfield. In 1966, Howie scored 15 goals and assisted on 42 for 57 points. He came of age the following season when he scored 25 goals, assisted on 39 and totalled 64 points. He might have been stuck in Shoreville, as were so many others, but then Jack Kent Cooke bought operating rights to the AHL franchise and players, giving Menard

his chance.

The little pivot failed to make the big club in pre-season camp. The Kings kept Gordon Labossiere, Eddie Joyal, Brian Kilrea and young Bryan Campbell, all bigger men. Campbell got hurt. Kilrea got hurt, and flopped when he came back. Labossiere had a bad year. Only Joyal had a good year. At mid-season, Menard was recalled to

bolster the Kings at center. He was not expected to stay long. It turned out, he was up to stay.

Menard played 35 games and scored nine goals and assisted on 15 others for 24 points.

He scored his first major league goal in mid-January, popping the puck past Ed Giacomin in a game against New York. It turned out to be the game-winner and



Menard failed to earn a berth with the Kings in training camp, but Campbell, Howie Hughes, Brian Kilrea and Gord Labossiere, were signed.

Menard added another later in a 5-2 upset of the Rangers. Then he scored the winning goal in a 2-0 win over Philadelphia.

Soon he scored the winning goal in a 2-0 win over Toronto. It came in the second period, against John Bower, and broke up a tense duel.

Howie hacked Glenn Hall for the first goal, then for the winning goal in a 4-2

conquest of St. Louis. He connected past Cesare Maniago for the tying goal in a 3-3 deadlock with Minnesota. Then in the third period he slashed a shot past Bernie Parent that proved the winner in a critical 4-2 win over Philadelphia that hoisted L.A. into a tie for first.

L.A. had only to win one of its last three games to win the pennant. The Kings

failed, but Menard set up two goals in the last two.

Menard worked hard throughout the disappointing seven-game playoff loss to Minnesota, failed to score but got five big assists. The Kings had Minnesota on the ropes and should have won easily. They flopped, but Menard did not.

Afterward, he sat in the tomb-like King quarters and



disconsolately from the minors while others like, left to right, Bryan
on by the big team.

said, "It's tough to take. It's tough when guys play their guts out all year and then come up empty-handed like this."

Sweat streamed down his hard, muscular little body. He shook his dark, rugged face. "Well, it's been a heck of a year. I learned a lot. I think I proved myself. I'm here to stay. I think."

He should be. In this new season, his second in the big leagues, the hustling little Menard should become one of the great gate attractions, not just in L.A., but throughout the NHL. He is a captivating performer.

Last season one of his linemates often was 5-9, 170-pound Howie Hughes. They were the smallest pair in hockey, but the two hustling Howies did quite a job. Only Hughes did not win a regular role, though he deserved it, and Menard did. There's only room for so many little men on a team.

The two playing together spotted opposition lines a lot of pounds and inches.

To compensate for this, coach Red Kelly often used 6-3, 195-pound Doug Robinson on their line. He made them look even smaller and faster than they were.

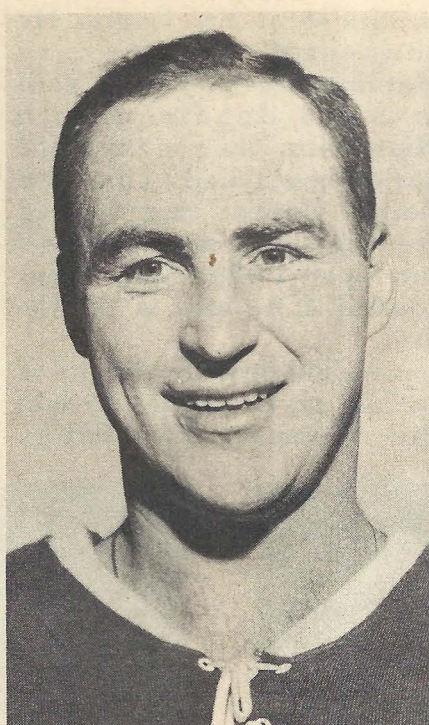
After the season, Kelly made it clear one of his big needs was for a physically strong and big center, who could match up with big pivots around the league.

Presumably he planned to keep Menard, though when you're small, you're never sure of your status.

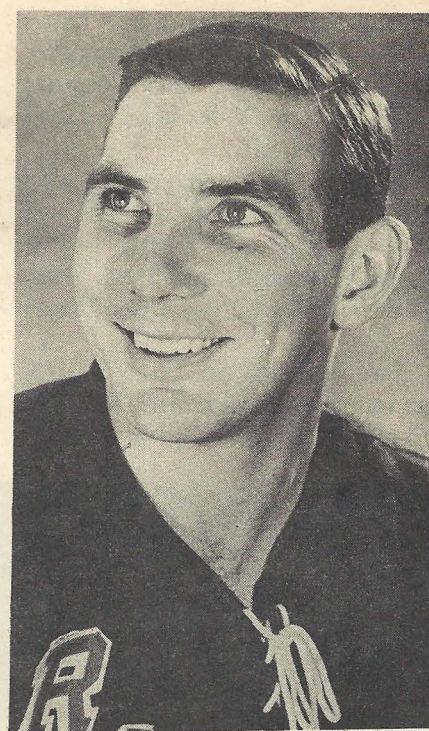
"I hope I'm set now, I need the job," the tough determined character commented.

At 26, Menard is married. He and his wife have three children, Maureen, 8; Michele, 6, and Margo, 6.

Minnie Menard is a little man, but a big talent. Given



RED KELLY



DOUG ROBINSON

a real chance, which little men seldom get in sports, he could make a big living for his four women. One hopes

he is not slighted because of his lack of stature, which shows up only on the scales and with the tape measure.

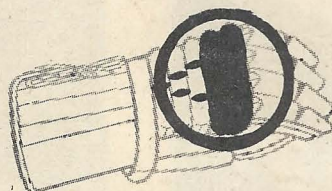
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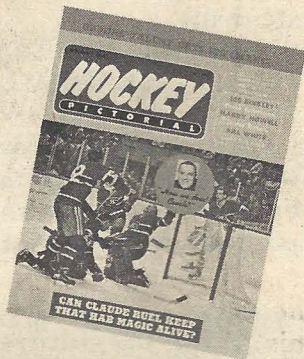
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RANGERS DELIGHTED OF NHL'S TOP EXPANS

By **NORMAN MacLEAN**

Three very highly-placed members of the Rangers front office were sitting around a conference table just prior to the June National Hockey League draft.

One New York executive said, "That settles it then. There are just two Expansion Division players whom we would trade someone like Wayne Hillman for. They are Jim Roberts of St. Louis and Dave Balon of Minnesota."

Sure enough a few days later, Wayne Hillman, the very capable New York blueliner who had lost his job to the blooming stardom of Rod Seiling was traded for Balon. Hillman, who had to be unhappy as the best fifth defenseman in hockey was sent to the North Stars for Balon, who had been the number one draft pick of the Minnesota outfit in the original 1967 Expansion draft.



As member of Montreal Canadiens, Balon was pesky man in front of net which he demonstrates here by deflecting shot into crease.

WITH REACQUISITION ON PICK DAVE BALON

When one examines the motives of Emile Francis, Bill Jennings and the new New York coach Bernie Geoffrion, he can see the picture. Both Roberts and Balon are speedy, smooth-skating versatile performers who can play all forward positions. And both are former Montreal Canadiens — who have the winning habit. In addition,

Balon is a former member of the Rangers — and represents one of the few times in the team's history that a player once traded away has been reacquired.

"What sold me on Balon was his attitude in the madly celebrating Montreal dressing room just after the Canucks had won the 1964-65 Stanley Cup. Dave had played the full season with

Montreal and had played in 63 games, but in the Cup competition he had been limited to action in ten of the 14 contests. He was in line for a full share, but all that was on his mind was the fact that he had contributed so little," noted Francis.

"This is nice, I suppose," said Dave. "But I want to play."

He had played and



In order to regain Balon's services, New York had to part with hockey's acknowledged "best fifth" defenseman, Wayne Hillman.

sensationally in 1963-64, the first year after the big mid-summer swap which sent Balon, Goaltender Lorne "Gump" Worsley and forward Leon Rochefort and Len Ronson to Montreal for the sensational, if not steady goalie Jacques Plante and forwards Phil Goyette and Donnie Marshall.

Davey had been with the Rangers three full seasons when he reported to Coach Toe Blake and the Canucks. Most everyone in New York expected that he would get a quick shuffle in the fall training camp and quickly wind up in the minors. Instead, Balon won a spot on a regular line and got 24, count'em, goals. In his Ranger career he had gotten a grand total of 16 red lights.

Blake said, "Balon skates like the wind, is always hustling and fits right into

our pattern like he had been developed in our farm system. He earned his spot."

A year later (1964-65) he played with a cracked ankle bone for half the season and fell off to 18 goals and that unproductive Stanley Cup playoff, when Gordon "Red" Berenson actually took his place in the last few games.

The outspoken Balon, a five foot, eleven inch, 174 pounder from Wakaw, Sask. played even less in the next season and was openly criticized by Blake. Toe sent him to Houston of the Central Pro League for nine games — and all in all it was an unhappy season for Davey in spite of another Canadian Cup victory, one made possible by the play of a makeshift line of Henri Richard, Balon and Roche-

fort, who turned the series around after Detroit won the first two games. Nonetheless, the rap on Davey was the same old thing as his original Ranger detractors had proclaimed. The kid could get the puck up the ice and could lay down a neat pass, but he just could not score. Blake, a perfectionist, wanted the perfect player and kept alternating Balon with Berenson, to the detriment of both.

When expansion loomed, it was obvious that Davey would not be protected, but the slick-haired forward had news for the NHL Governors.

"I will not report to an expansion club unless the new teams get a chance to play for the Stanley Cup. They may not be as good as the old teams, but this must be proven on the ice," said



With Montreal, Balon was regarded as opportunist, left, as he awaits rebound at Eddie Johnston's doorstep, and as a willing scrapper, right, as he indicates in altercation with unidentified Bruin.



Balon leaves Minnesota North Stars for New York after only one season with Western Division club which made him first choice in expansion draft.

Balon.

When the Stanley Cup setup was announced with an East-West Final, Balon was happy. He was even happier when Wren Blair, the coach of the Minnesota North Stars, made Dave his first pick in the June 1967 Draft. Since Blair won the toss of a multi-sided coin, Balon actually was the choice of the entire NHL expansion pool.

With Minnesota Dave had a fair season winding up with 15 goals and 47 points. Blair might have been a bit unhappy with this production but he couldn't complain about Balon's Stanley Cup work. Dave hit for 13 points in the fourteen big Cup games that the North Stars played in.

"It was a disappointment when St. Louis beat us in the semi-finals. I wanted to return to the Forum and play against the Canucks for the Stanley Cup," recalls Balon.

Blair obviously expected twenty goals from Balon, whose brother Chick played as a minor pro for quite a few seasons. Bernard "Boom Boom" Geoffrion, the Rangers new coach also expects twenty goals from Dave — and is on record as saying that Balon can be quite an addition to New York.

"I remember what Balon did in that first season of 1963-64 when he joined the Canadiens. He really was moving — and this is what I expect from him. He will have to earn a job though — and it probably will be as a wing on the third line. Since Orland Kurtenbach is the center and Ron Stewart the right wing, Davey will have to compete with Reg Fleming for the other spot," observes Geoffrion.

Significantly the 30-year-

old Balon got two goals in the Blueshirts' first training camp scrimmage and then he and Fleming went into the corner for a loose puck and Davey came out of the tussle with three stitches.



BILL JENNINGS

... *lands prize catch*



JIM ROBERTS

... *also sought*

"Just part of the game," shrugged Balon.

It is this attitude which gives one the feeling that New York made an

excellent deal in reclaiming the man who once played wing with Jean Ratelle and Rod Gilbert back in their formative years with New York. If any of the New York centers falter, Balon can step in and he certainly can kill penalties — and thus enable such talented, but somewhat frail operatives as Donnie Marshall and Bob Nevin to rest for their main job of scoring goals.

Nonetheless, Davey will make it if he scores in New York as he did in his first two seasons in Montreal. New York is loaded with utility types who excel as penalty killers — such as Stewart, Kurtenbach, Fleming, Larry Jeffrey etc. A scorer in this group will have it made and command a nice contract.

That would make Mrs. Balon, the former Gwen Gillies of Saskatchewan very happy and it would seem as just payment for a hard-working professional who perhaps has been buffeted about enough to earn the term of journeyman.

Slick hair and all, Davey may be a journeyman and really was rated as a utility player with Montreal except for his one big year when he teamed with Ralph Backstrom and Claude Larose. Despite all of this Balon has had some moments in the spotlight. One of these came in his first tour of duty with the New Yorkers.

Howie Young, that skating example of alcoholics anonymous in those days, came at Davey with blood in his eyes.

"This is going to cost me fifty bucks in fines," said Young. "But it will cost you two hundred in hospital bills."

"I figured he meant it —



Despite his impressive credentials, Balon will have to fight off Reggie Fleming, above, for left wing berth with Rangers.

and simply beat him to the punch with a straight right hand," recalls Balon.

Young was rendered horizontal and the word spread throughout the NHL that the young Ranger with the funny name (it's pronounced Balon as in Malone) could really take care of himself.

Dave is of Ukranian descent and probably would have fit in real well with the Boston Bruins' Uke line of Bronco Horvath, Vic Stasiuk and Johnny Bucyk. One of those three is really a Croatian, not a Ukranian.

What Blake liked about Balon — and part of the

reason he got him for Montreal — was the fact that Davey will take a good bump in order to get a shot on the enemy's goal. In the era of Lady Byng Ranger teams, Balon stood out in regard to hitting opponents. Now with such authoritative bangers around as Fleming, Vic Hadfield and Kurtenbach, Davey will not have to do it all himself.

Part of the time he was with Montreal he took the rugged John Ferguson's spot when Fergy was rendered hors de combat — and Balon did everything Fergy usually does and skated a bit better in the process.

Balon claims that he plays better when he is mad — and his blood is pumping. Also that hitting defensemen is not as hard as it looks.

"Some of those big blueliners will put their heads down for a split second when they go behind the net to pick up the puck — and bango — they are fair game just like everyone else," says Dave.

Balon has another claim to fame in addition to being the first player claimed in the Expansion draft. He has now become the first regular performer traded back to the old established Eastern Division by the new Western clubs, who maintained a spot on an Eastern club. This may not sound like much but it probably makes Balon the king of the fringe players who formerly lived on the edge of minors, but who usually hung on in the NHL.

Geoffrion says, "I don't consider him a fringe player. He will help get the puck up ice, and he will hit and score. He is solid in his skating and he plays all three forward positions very well. I am darn glad our General Manager Emile Francis was able to get him. We were not using Wayne Hillman very much and Balon is a definite plus."

The only plus Balon wants is in ice time — and this reporter thinks that he will get it this time around and may just surprise a few of the so-called experts who wrote him off as good field — no score.

"I sure would like to field that Stanley Cup this May," says Davey. "I got used to winning in Montreal and don't want to stop now." ●

SEALS EYE DAYLIGHT AFTER ROCKY DEBUT

By Joe Wujek

How did it happen that the Oakland Seals, picked by consensus to win the '67-68 Western Division race, performed so badly? Even now, with benefit of watching the club perform over an entire season, the causes are not at all obvious.

A popular scapegoat among some of the players, and most of the fans, Bert Olmstead, has been released as GM-Coach. The General Manager's job is now handled by Frank Selke, Jr., who also doubles as president. The coach's position belongs to the personable Fred Glover, former AHL great.

While Olmstead can be pegged as part of the Seals' problem last year, many are too quick to place all of the responsibility

there. Writers particularly, in allowing emotions to influence what they write, were all too eager to pin the blame on Bert.

Olmstead never enjoyed good press relations in Oakland. Since many members of the news media are accustomed to having their egos massaged delicately, and often, a Bert Olmstead on the scene was predetermined to cause friction. Olmstead, a no-nonsense type who fawns on no man, much less sports media people, thus became a favorite personal target. Granted, Olmstead was not the most accessible person, and gave precious few post-game press conferences.

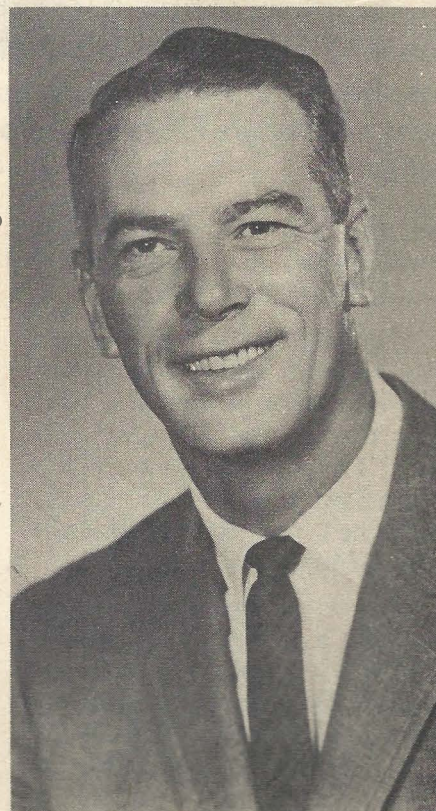
He was extremely tough on the players, subjecting them to long, grinding,



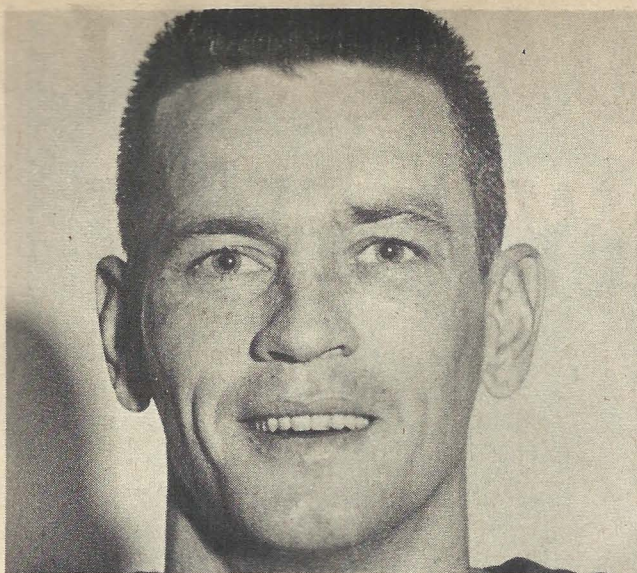
FRANK SELKE JR.
... g.m. and prexy



GORD FASHOWAY
... moving on



BERT OLMSTEAD
... scapegoat?



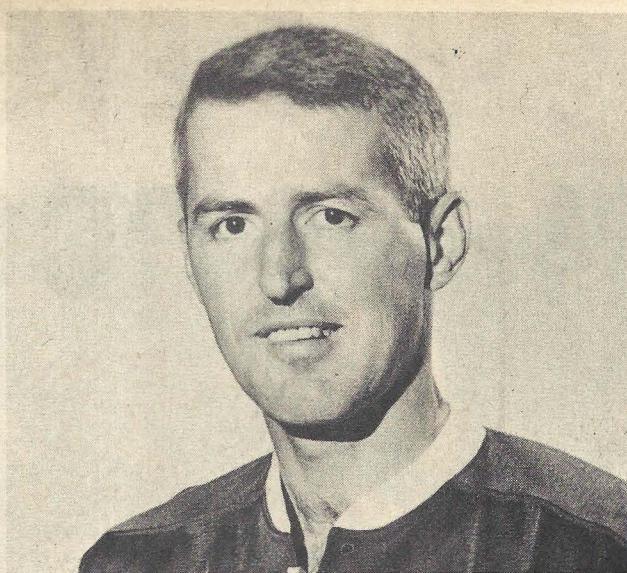
HOWIE YOUNG . . . sold to Chicago

practice sessions. An hour of "starts and stops" was Olmstead's idea of a "tune-up" for a scrimmage. But for all his wars with the news media, his Simon Legree tactics on the players, and his general aloofness with players and sportswriters alike, it was not Bert Olmstead who allowed 219 goals against while scoring only 153. This spread in goal production gave the Seals a mere 15 wins and 17 ties for 47 points, a full 20 points behind fifth-place Pittsburgh.

For an individual to work effectively, he needs to be motivated. This is true of hockey players as it is of surgeons and factory workers. Motivation can come from a variety of sources, and perhaps surprisingly to some, financial gain is not a prime motivating factor. If one is at odds with the supervisor, one's effectiveness is no doubt curtailed. Curtailed but not totally destroyed.

The Seals players for the most part were not getting along with their coaches, first Olmstead, then Gord Fashoway. But this is not enough to explain the attitude of some of the players. A human being has pride, and pride can overcome many adverse circumstances. But some of the players "gave up" — on themselves and on the team.

After Olmstead, Billy Harris became a popular whipping boy among the fans. Billy, a high draft choice, had a disappointing season with 29 points (12 goals, 17 assists) in 62 games. After a 70-point AHL season the previous year, big things were expected of Harris. When his point production sagged Billy took a great deal of abuse from the coaches as well as



BILLY HARRIS . . . whipping boy

from some of the fans.

Harris, not noted for his rough play, relies more on good skating and slick stick-work to do the job. To the fan who has only a superficial knowledge of hockey, players of the Harris style appear to be loafing because they aren't attempting to drive an opponent through the boards. By this definition, even Toronto's Dave Keon is a loafer!

To be fair to Harris, we need to look back at his playing record. Prior to his first season with the Seals, Harris had 292 points, including 107 goals, in 634 NHL regular season games. In some of those NHL games with Toronto, he saw only limited ice time. He was often used as a spot-player, put in at a critical point in the game to give the offense a spurt. Lou Angotti saw similar duty in his last season with Chicago. Thus, we should not expect a lot of scoring from Billy, an average of a scoring point every two games or so would be in keeping with his player history.

Not all Seals' fans boo, however.

The Seals Booster Club, an enthusiastic group of 500 hard-core hockey fans, had their start back when the Seals played in the Western Hockey League out of the San Francisco Cow Palace. Then, as now, the club puts on an active round of activities.

Each November the Boosters host a "Get Acquainted Dinner" for the players and fans, and a Christmas Party. Dependent upon schedule, a yearly plane trip to see the Seals play in Los Angeles is always a highlight of the season. The season's activities are climaxed by the annual picnic. An MVP award is also



Members of Oakland Seals enjoy themselves at annual Booster Club picnic.

presented, with spunky goaltender Charlie Hodge receiving the '67-68 award.

The Boosters have two membership classification: Junior, at \$2 a year for young fans of 7 to 17; for the fans over 18, a membership goes for \$3. The dues provide for the Christmas party and picnic, which are free to members. Monthly meetings generally feature a Seals' player, as well as members of visiting teams.

Booster President Tony Patch of 363 Arballo Drive in San Francisco, long active in the club, enjoys exchanging ideas with other fan clubs in the NHL.

As Tony puts it, "The single aim of the club's 500 members is to keep hockey in the Bay Area!" Judging by the enthusiasm of the Seals Booster Club

members, hockey has a sound base for growth in the Bay cities.

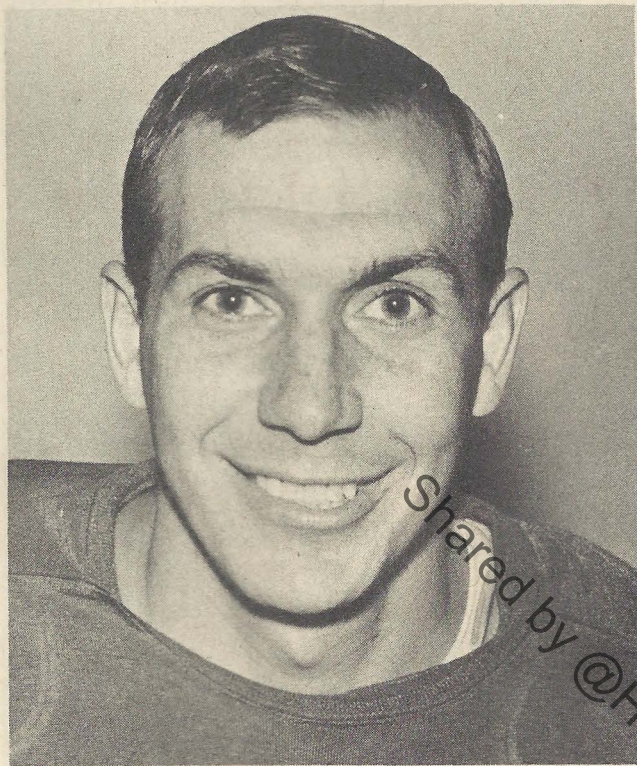
But, now, back to the Seals' problems.

It is interesting to note that of the original top ten draft picks, excluding goaltenders, made by the Seals in June '67, six have since departed. First draft choice Bob Baun was reluctantly traded to Detroit, along with Ron Harris, for Gary Jarrette, Howie Young, and Doug Roberts. Young was since sold to Chicago. In an earlier trade with the Wings, Kent Douglas was exchanged for Ted Hampson, John Brenneman, and Bert Marshall. Hampson and Marshall have since become key performers for the Seals, and played well after coming to Oakland. Brenneman showed some promise of becoming a good

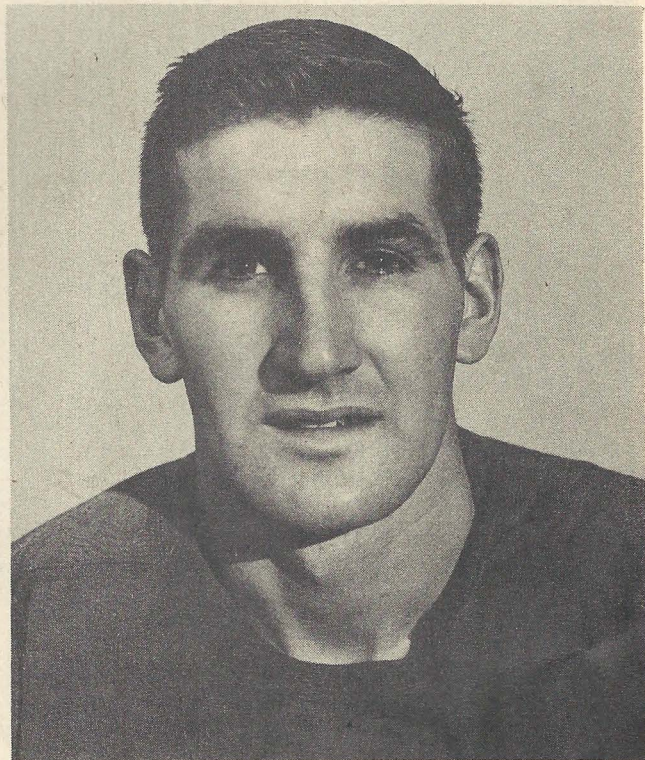


Charlie Hodge receives Seals Booster Club Most Valuable Player award for 1967-68 from club vice-president Heinz.

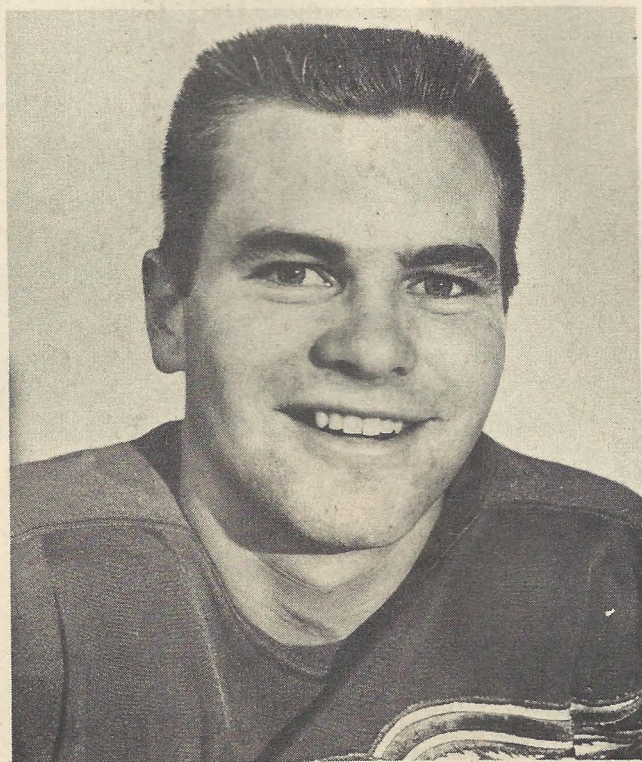
Ex-Red Wings Buoy Seals



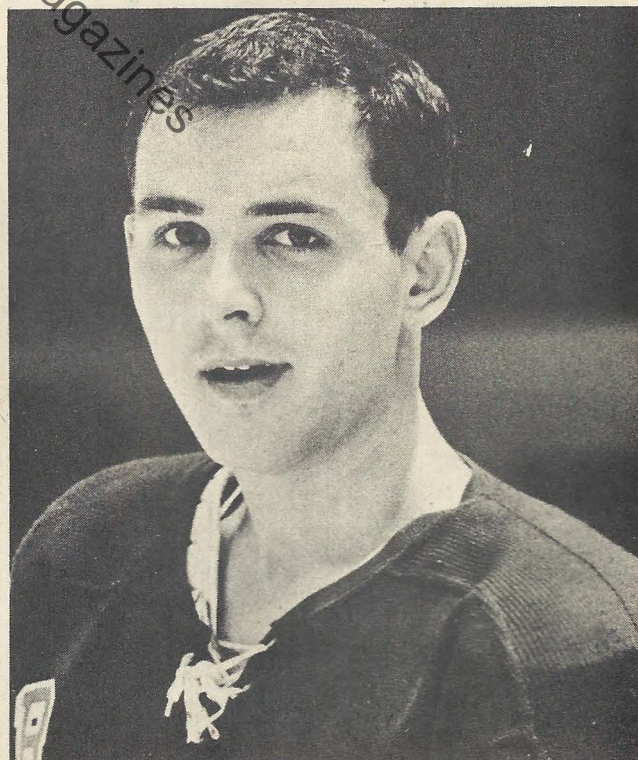
GARY JARRETT



DOUG ROBERTS

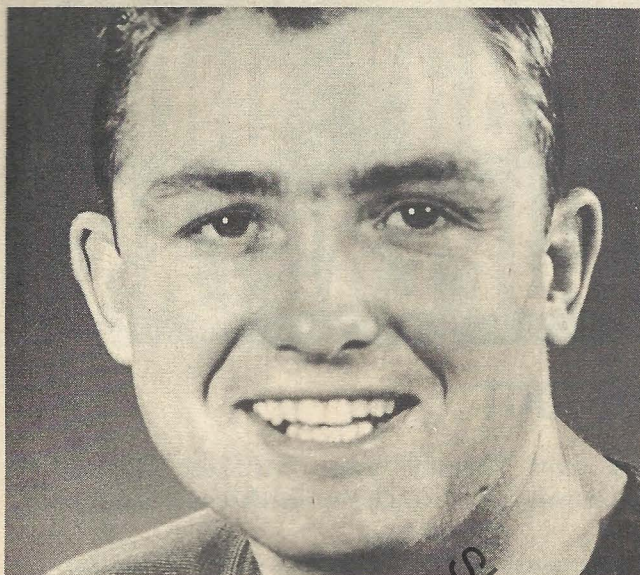


BERT MARSHALL



JOHN BRENNEMAN

Injury-Riddled!



Among the numerous Seals' problems last season were injuries. Two of the hardest hit, Billy Hicke, left, and George Swarbrick, missed about 25 games each.

scorer for the first time in his pro career. A very fast skater, if John develops a good shot he could help shore up left wing for the club.

Also departed from the top ten draft picks are Larry Cahan, Wally Boyer, and Jean-Paul Parise. Thus, only Bill Hicke, Billy Harris, Joe Szura, and Bob Lemieux remain from the top ten draft choices. Szura and Lemieux will have to battle it out for a spot at center and defense, respectively. Hicke and Harris are mainstays on the forward lines.

The crowd factor probably had some effect on the Seals' losses, and conversely. Some of the Seals' best games were played before large crowds. A 1-0 loss to Chicago on a Bobby Hull goal late in the third period was witnessed by the only sell-out crowd of the year: 12,025. Seals played like Stanley Cup champions that night, and also played well in beating Boston twice in Oakland. A 4 — 3 come-from-behind win over Toronto was another case of their too-few solid performances. These games and only a handful more of steady play were due largely to a sustained effort by all players. Too often the play was spasmodic — mistakes led to many opposition goals. Seals were consistently outshot by opponents, some games as bad as a 4 — 1 ratio.

Injuries were also a factor, although all

clubs share this problem. Hicke missed quite a few games and had his efficiency severely impaired when he did play, due to a lung ailment. Key defenseman Marshall missed the last quarter of the season with a knee injury. George Swarbrick was headed for a 20-goal season and was checking his wing well when hurt Christmas night in Boston. Swarbrick missed 25 games, first with the broken finger suffered in Boston, then with a foot injury picked up in March. These injuries were critical to the Seals, because no adequate replacements could be found. The Seals minor league affiliation with Vancouver was of little help. If Oakland is to improve, they must begin to build a well-stocked farm system. A few amateurs will be turned pro this season as a humble start towards building the farms, but there is yet a long way to go.

What happened to the Seals? The morale was low, the scoring punch weak, the power play poor, and the player ranks thin. This year's team figures to be somewhat stronger on the scoring; and the club morale under Fred Glover, much improved. After the first 20 players, there isn't much back-up help. In any case we expect to see a much-improved Oakland club in '68-69, and a resultant close race in the Western Division. ●

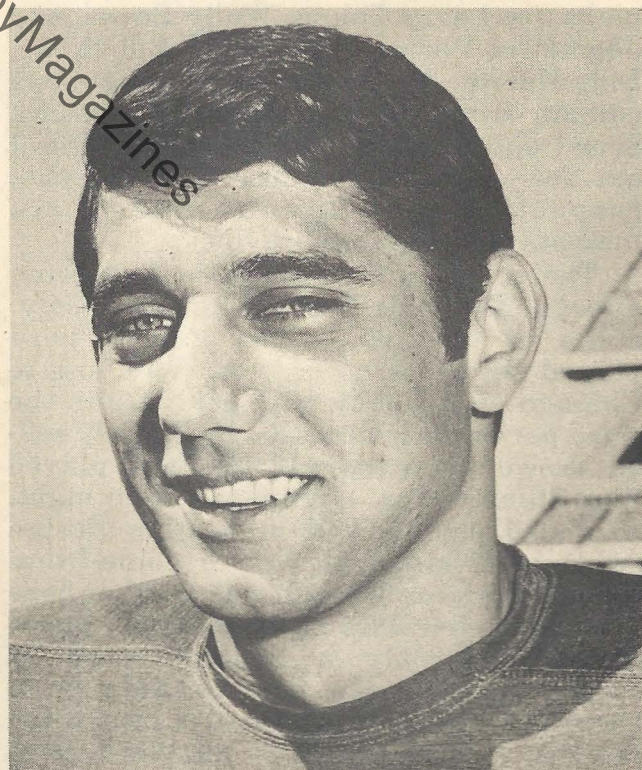
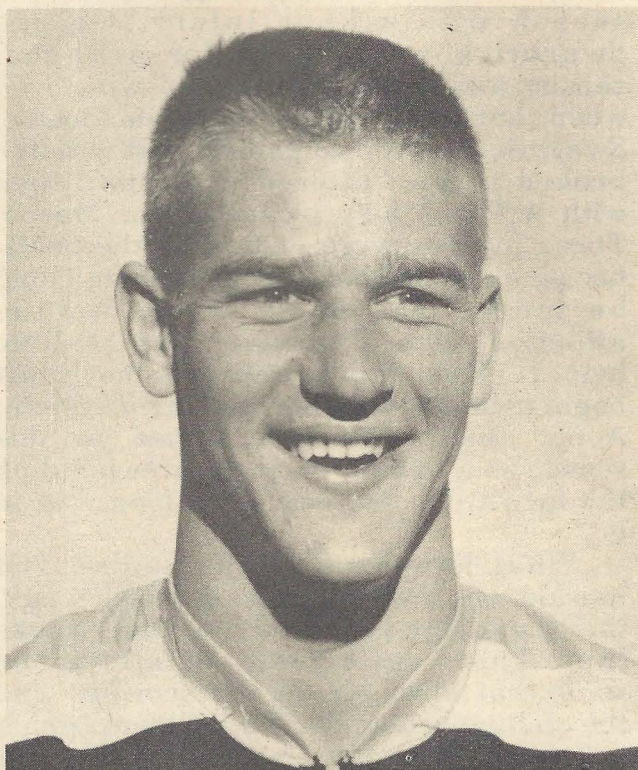
"FRINGE BENEFITS" HELP MAKE BOBBY ORR RICH YOUNG SUPERSTAR

By JIM PROUDFOOT

Bobby Orr has NOT become hockey's first \$100,000-year athlete. But what Boston Bruins' defence prodigy definitely HAS become is one of the wealthiest young men in North America.

His new contract with the Boston club guarantees that status, even if he never laces on skates again.

There are two ways of approaching the matter of a sports contract, you see. When New York Jets signed quarterback Joe Namath in 1965, they deliberately leaked the monetary details of their agreement. If you included all the facets of his deal, taking in the value of a paid-up insurance policy and total deferred salary, it all came to \$400,000 and so Namath became the \$400,000 quarterback. The figure was without precedent in football history and won a lot of recognition for the fledgling American League, which was struggling then to get established.



In marked contrast to case of football star Joe Namath, right, contract terms agreed to by Bobby Orr, left, were suppressed by team officials. Enough did leak out, however, to reveal that Orr is one of highest paid players in NHL.

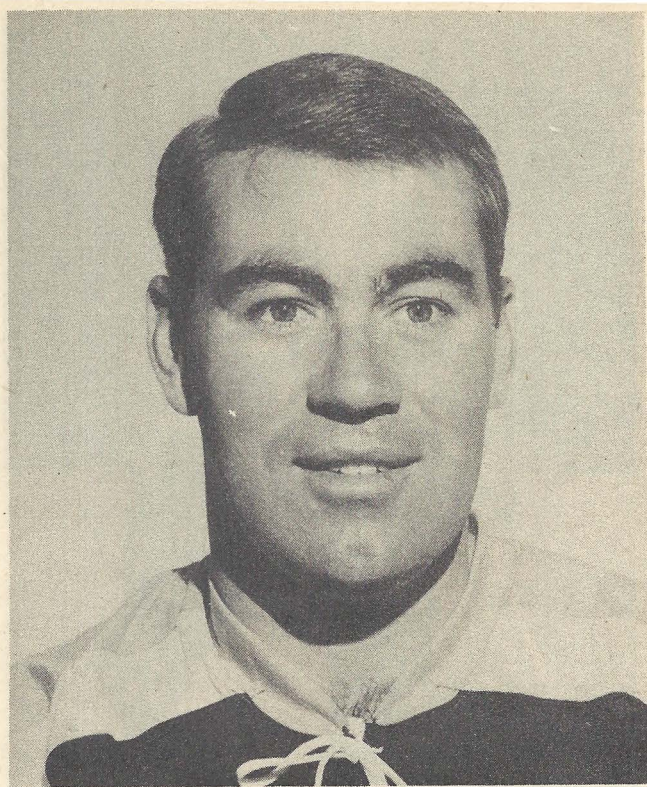


HARRY SINDÉN ... "not injury-prone"

That's one way. The other method is to suppress the particulars, lest other athletes decide they are entitled to comparable pay. This is the attitude the National Hockey League, which doesn't need publicity, adopted in the Bobby Orr case. Hockey leaders did not want the world at large to know what Orr really did win at those summer negotiations and, when some of the items were revealed anyway, an official denial was issued.

Nobody is lying about Orr's actual salary. He really will receive somewhere around \$40,000 for the 1968-69 season. That's high, but by no means the highest. There are fringe benefits, however. For example, he will get a \$25,000 bonus if Bruins should win the Stanley Cup. There is one of those insurance policies. If he decides to pursue his education, presently abandoned, he will do so at Bruins' expense. As a hedge against the knee problems that have begun to plague him, he has a guaranteed income to age 45 which, of course, helps him no end with the tax people. And he has the privilege of negotiating a new deal in 1971, after three more seasons have elapsed.

It would be stretching a point, indeed, to derive a \$100,000 annual stipend from all those angles, just as it would be exaggerating to put a 400 G's tag on the entire package. But many people have



ED WESTFALL ... half as good?

come to accept those \$100,000 and \$400,000 amounts as accurate. As a matter of fact, teammate Ed Westfall confirmed Bruins' worst fears, though he may have been kidding, when he said: "I figure I'm half as good as Orr, so I want \$50,000."

Whatever it is, you have to admit it's not bad for a lad who celebrated his 20th birthday just last March. And all he has to do in return is continue as the NHL's No. 1 defenceman, which he became last winter — and which is as natural to him as knotting a tie — and to work as a public relations man for the Boston club during the summer months.

Orr's achievements, in only two big-league campaigns, have been truly remarkable. As a freshman in 1966 and '67, he made the second all-star team, won the Calder rookie prize and led all NHL defencemen with 13 goals. Last year, he was selected as the game's outstanding rearguard, receiving the James Norris Memorial Trophy, led the all-star poll and collected 11 goals, despite missing 26 of Bruins' scheduled matches.

Those 26 games he missed symbolize the only dark clouds on Orr's bright gold horizon. He has bad knees already, when he's barely out of his teens, and he seems to be unlucky where injuries are concerned. He's had two knee operations already in 1968 and he's been off work



Orr, right, has frequently been compared to Doug Harvey, left, when latter was in his heyday with Montreal. Bobby had been described as a "perfect player — a Harvey with additional speed and power."

because of shoulder damage as well. Is he brittle?

Coach Harry Sinden scoffs. "He's not injury-prone at all," says Sinden. "It's just that he's always at the center of the action and is therefore exposed to danger more often. It's just a part of being such a dominant player that every game seems to revolve around him."

Orr himself, characteristically self-critical, is actually looking to improve his efficiency in the coming season. Bruins would settle for his health and fitness, but he feels his work has left something to be desired.

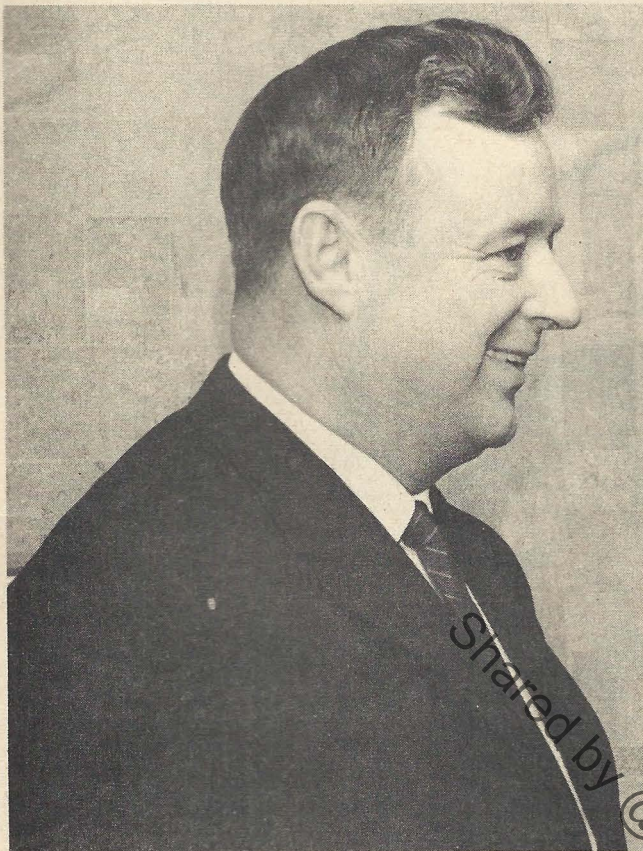
"I have to improve my defensive play," he claims. "I back in on the goalie far too much. I've got to learn to stay up at the blue line more and force the player coming in to commit himself. Blocking shots is fine, but more often than not, you only succeed in obstructing your goalie's view."

This, of course, will come as a shock to most hockey analysts who have concluded Orr is the perfect player — a Doug Harvey with additional speed and power. He and Bobby Hull are the supermen of big-league hockey today and it is so easy to forget that Orr is only 20. It is absolutely staggering to contemplate what his future may be if hockey continues to grow and he continues to improve. He should, after all, keep on playing until at least 1988.

It's often been said that Orr is a born hockey player. That assumption was made because he seemed, even in his early teens, to possess skills it would normally take a defenceman a lifetime to develop. But Orr himself will tell you that he had excellent coaching as a child. Bucko McDonald, an NHL defenceman with Detroit, Toronto and New York, and later a Member of Parliament, was head coach for all boys' teams in Parry Sound, Ont., when Orr was 11 and 12 years old.



Superscout!



It took a real superscout to sign Orr, and the pleasure was all Wren Blair's before he left the Bruins to join Minnesota North Stars in his present capacity as general manager and coach.

"Bucko taught me almost everything I know," Orr says.

"It wasn't hard," says Bucko, "because even at that age you could see that Bobby was something special."

In 1960, Bobby Orr was with the Parry Sound bantams when they went to Gananoque, Ont., for a provincial playoff. Wren Blair, then a scout for Bruins, was there and had general manager Lynn Patrick with him. They hadn't gone to the rink to look at Orr at all — Gananoque was a farm club of theirs — but before the game was many minutes old, Orr was the only player they could see.

"What was so special about him?" says Blair, now coach and general manager of Minnesota North Stars. "Everything. Just that he was skating rings around everybody else."

It was agreed that Blair should do everything possible to land this amazing youngster for the Boston organization and from that evening on, he was in Parry Sound every chance he got. Bruins even contributed \$1,000 annually to the Parry Sound minor hockey program, just to demonstrate what nice people they were. Little did they know the truth, which Orr now confesses: "I chose Boston because they looked like they'd be the easiest team to make."

In 1962, Blair — tho must regret it now that he's trying to beat Boston — persuaded 14-year-old Bobby to attend a tryout camp in Niagara Falls, Ont. Young Orr was so outstanding Blair panicked. He simply had to get the kid onto a sponsored lineup where no other NHL outfit could move in on him.

The Orr family reluctantly agreed to let their son join Oshawa Generals, a Boston affiliate 150 miles from Parry Sound. The boy would continue living at home and would commute. Somebody would drive him to each game. And so at 14, without every attending a practice, he was voted to the Ontario junior "A" league's second-string all-star team.

A year later, Orr was staying in Oshawa and still hitch-hiking home for week-end visits but in Boston, they were talking about him as the new miracle worker who, when he arrived in 1966, would lead Bruins out of the hockey wilderness.

Under NHL rules, Orr wasn't eligible for a game until after his 18th birthday on March 20, 1966. When that milestone was reached, Bruins wanted to bring him in for a preview, just to show the fans what lay ahead. But he refused.

By that time, Orr had allied himself with R. Allan Eagleson, a Toronto lawyer who'd been counselling several hockey players on a friendship basis. Eagleson used to spend his summers in the Parry Sound area and was approached by the Orrs for advice on their million dollar baby and how to manage him.

The advice, of course, was to play it cool because they held all the cards. The Bruins simply couldn't fail to deliver Orr so it was safe to hold out for the best possible terms. It was made known that Orr was prepared to go on with his schooling and play amateur hockey with Canada's Olympic team. There was even a sponsor ready to finance such a move. The

Legal "Eagle" Counsels Orr



Orr didn't negotiate his 1968-69 pact alone. For legal aid and counselling he enlisted the services of Alan R. Eagleson, above, who helped draw up Bobby's contract with the assistance of a few tips from Joe Namath's lawyer.

Bruins blundered but they had to give in and they did. Orr signed with general manager Hap Emms during Labor Day weekend, 1966. It was a two-year arrangement which Bruins offered to rip up after that auspicious rookie season. Orr wisely refused, correctly gambling that he'd be able to enhance his value as a sophomore.

It was Eagleson, with a few pointers from Joe Namath's lawyer, who negotiated the fabulous contract Orr got last summer.

Orr lived up to advance billing in 1966, though he didn't get that year's club into the playoffs. That achievement was delayed until 1967-68 after Milt Schmidt, the new general manager, acquired Phil Esposito, Ken Hodge and Fred Stanfield from Chicago. Given those accomplished forwards to work with, Orr's offensive genius became apparent. As he himself says, the defensive end of things is his next major project. . .

Bobby Orr has changed in many ways. The boyish crew cut has been replaced by an up-to-date style and he has advanced as a person along similar lines. He's more glib and polished. He was the model of a suave, business-like 1968 type athlete when he gave a Toronto press conference in August to describe the new hockey camp he's going to operate, with Leafs' Mike Walton and Bob Haggert, the former Leaf trainer, not far from Parry Sound. He had all the right phrases and proper answers. He must be organized, of course, to manage the many and complex details of his busy life.

But Orr still calls people "sir" and is unfailingly polite. He's a lad who's been brought up properly and it is inconceivable that he'll ever develop some of the irritating mannerisms adopted by less talented athletes. He's the same kid who left Parry Sound to play hockey and he betrays the fact by rushing back home every chance he gets — to fish, to hunt, to visit his folks, to simply loaf. He's been around but, for him, Parry Sound is still the place to be.

Last winter, after a Garden game in Boston, a fan found his car stuck in deep slush that was getting worse because of a driving rainstorm. A fellow came along and said "you steer and I'll push." After 20 minutes of straining, the car came loose. The driver got out to thank his benefactor, by then thoroughly drenched, and was amazed to discover it was Bobby Orr.

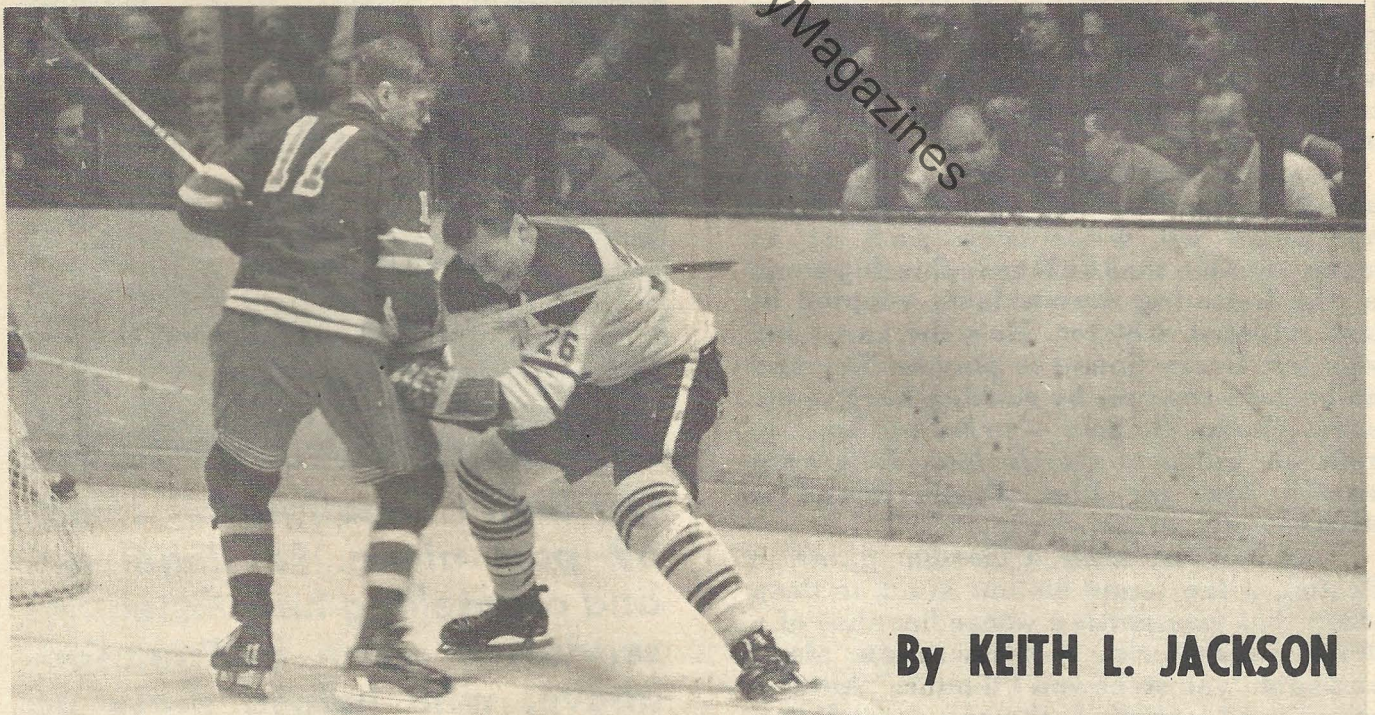
That's the sort of person he is. ●

PRO HOCKEY SHOULD REVOLUTIONIZE ITS COACHING SYSTEM

Is the National Hockey League wasting precious talent, casting aside years of hockey "know-how" by allowing the cream-of-the-crop of again veterans to retire and slowly fade away into oblivion? Yes! — and it is due to their archaic coaching system, a carry over from the early days of hockey.

What can be done to prevent this shameful waste and provide essential extra coaching jobs for some of our most knowledgeable hockey stars as their playing careers move relentlessly to an end?

You can easily compile an imposing list of super-stars who are rapidly approaching the zenith of their hockey careers. Take Allan Stanley, an ageless work horse for the Philadelphia Flyers. Another plus 40 super-man is the great Gordie Howe, who could almost be called Mr. Red Wing as he has piled up records year after year as the Right Wing supreme of the NHL. How about super-All-Star Defenseman, Pierre Pilote who showed signs last year that father time is jamming his career? There's the peerless Jacques Plante who is attempting a comeback this season after several retirement years. Jacques is one of the immortal goalies whose love for the game is forcing him back into action.



By **KEITH L. JACKSON**

Ageless workhorse Allan Stanley, seen here demonstrating defensive tactics on Rangers' Vic Hadfield, would be excellent man to teach tricks of trade to young rearguards.



Jacques Plante, pictured here in his prime while with Montreal, would undoubtedly make excellent "goalie coach".

Football and baseball teams have for years employed the talents of fading stars in coaching spots. They know the great value of these men who have scrambled through season after season of wearing competition and have acquired invaluable knowledge that is priceless to the success of every team.

Football coaching specialists are the prime movers behind the success of the head coach. After a head coach takes over a new organization in football, he carefully selects a number of assistant coaches to handle the detail work in bringing offensive and defensive men to the peak of perfection by the season's start and then keeping them up throughout the long season.

The head coach appoints an expert assistant in backfield offensive play to perfect the devastating attack he expects to mould from the backfield stars that have been assembled. It is his job to drill his backfield candidates in the basics of football offenses until they are so adept that their moves become automatic. If he cannot weld his offensive backfield into a powerful scoring threat, his days will be numbered in that particular organization. He holds special school sessions for the quarterbacks who run the team offensively in each game, viewing movies and setting up new plays.

Other assistant coaches are employed to handle the defensive units. An inexperienced man would have an insurmountable problem attempting to impart knowledge to a group of men who are skilled but lack the know-how of the experienced defensive coach.

The head coach becomes a coordinator, the man who pulls the loose ends together and builds the smooth functioning unit from the parts put together by his assistants. He is able to see the overall picture more easily since he doesn't become bogged down with the innumerable details that are handled by his aides.

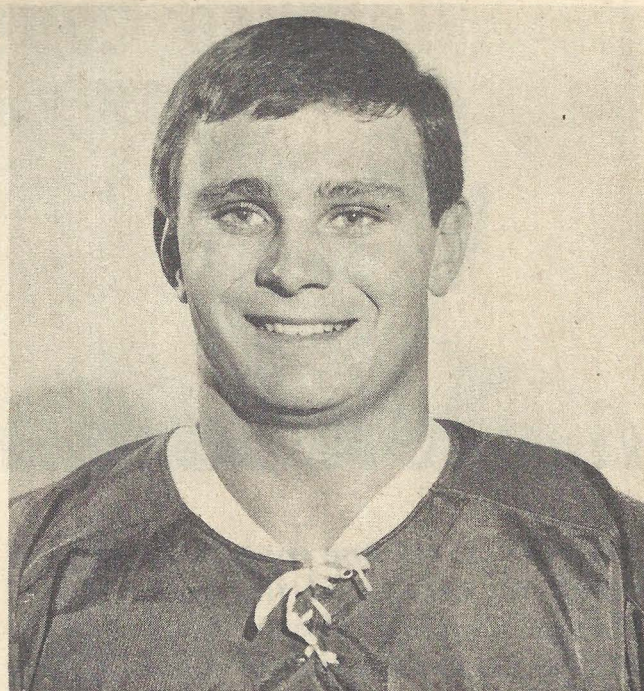
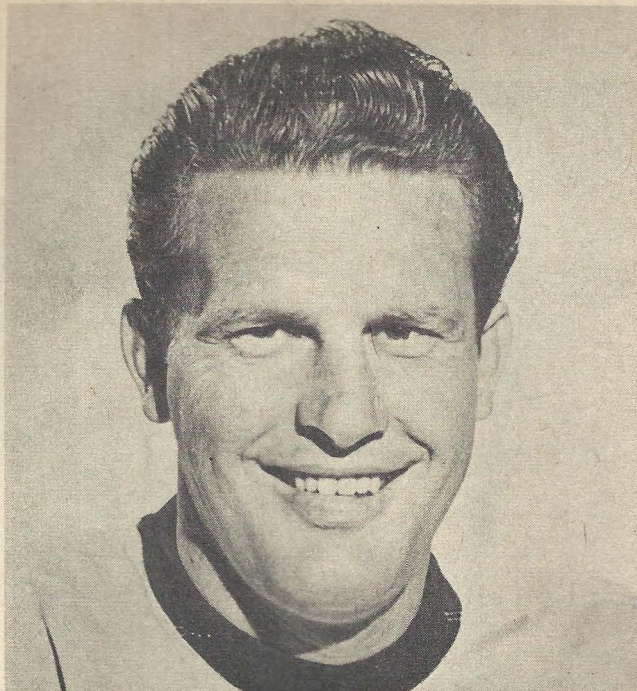
Baseball, another popular and lucrative sport, follows a similar coaching format. The system starts with a manager who chooses men he knows are tops in their field. The coaches are generally ex-players who have the knack for passing on their extensive past experience to the team members.

"Defense Coach" Credentials



Pierre Pilote, left, certainly has the qualifications to become an excellent "defense coach". Here the onetime Chicago Black Hawk receives James Norris Memorial Trophy from NHL president Clarence Campbell. Pilote won the award as league's top defenseman three straight years from 1963-65.

There is always a batting coach — a man who knows all there is to know about batting and is able to pass his knowledge on to his charges. Because it takes a different type of know—how to teach a pitcher, another assistant coach, expert in this field, works constantly with the pitchers and their success is his responsibility. A good pitching coach can often bring about a remarkable transformation in an average group of men through individualized instruction and hard work.



Erstwhile rookies-of-the-year Kent Douglas, left, and Brit Selby lapsed into sophomore jinx perhaps because they lacked individual attention that only an assistant coaching specialist could give.

For many years, hockey has maintained its tight laced image with no deviations in protocol. Then, in 1967, the Board of Governors came up with their plans for National Hockey League expansion. It was a remarkable change from the former six team status. In spite of dire warnings, they went ahead and added six new teams in scattered parts of the country. They set up an exceptionally equitable draft that permitted new teams to build organizations that surprised the world with their effectiveness.

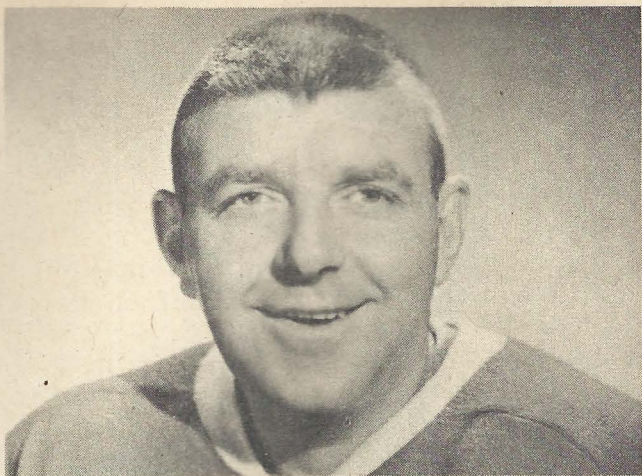
Teams such as Minnesota and Philadelphia attracted excellent crowds from the start. Some of the other teams' attendance was touch and go for a good part of the season. Yet, as the season moved into the final stages, crowd interest increased in these cities and prospects are excellent for a good attendance response in the 1968-69 season.

If you take a close look at the 12 NHL teams, you will probably be able to classify each of them as basically offensive — or defensive — oriented teams. Then, if you check the coach, you will often find that his experience as a player in the National Hockey League covers primarily the same type of play his team displays. Montreal Canadiens, Chicago Black Hawks and Detroit Red Wings employ the offensive, over powering type of attack. Each has been coached by an offensive minded ex-forward: Billy Reay at Chicago and until this season Sid Abel at Detroit and Toe Blake at Montreal.

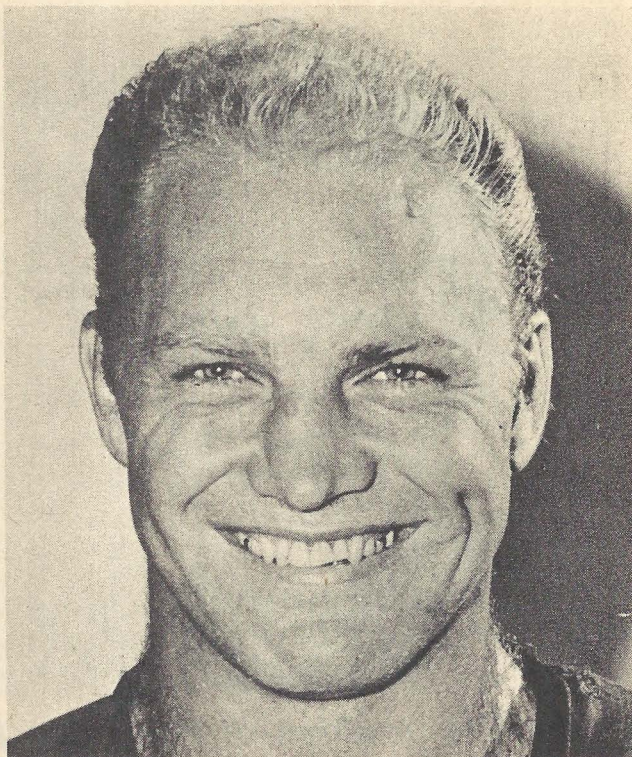
These teams come out flying, trying to put away the crusher in the early minutes of play. Since no team can keep up such a pace all night, they press and fly, harrassing the defensemen and goalie with quick shots and rebounds and often score first.

Despite some tremendous talent on the black lines, these teams aren't always tops in defense because there is so much concentration on offensive maneuvers that many times the defensemen get carried away deep into the scoring zone and leave themselves open for stolen pucks and breakaways.

On the other hand, a defensive-oriented team such as the Philadelphia Flyers or Toronto Maple Leafs, is drilled so intently on delaying actions that their offensive attack is sacrificed. As a rule these teams play for the break, the mistake by their opponents that often leads to a goal. Their main function is to delay and impede the smashing forays of the offensive-minded team, expecting that eventually they will steal a puck and have clear sailing to the goal.



It's difficult for one man to be able to coach all aspects of the game. Could Gump Worsley, above, instruct Stan Mikita on stickhandling? Could Bobby Hull, right, show Ed Giacomin how to stop pucks?



An offensive-defensive integrated team is an impossibility today in the National Hockey League because the single-coach system will only permit concentration on one phase of the game, such as offense, with a resultant breakdown in defense or vice-versa, depending upon the coach's past experience.

Since hockey has become a completely scientific game, it is no longer possible for a single man to coach his team completely on all phases of the game. To give the fans and the owners a completely rounded team and one that will employ to the utmost all the talents of the squad, he must line up assistant coaching specialists.

Rookies entering the NHL often are unable to make the transition, not because they do not have the necessary tools, but actually because the single coaching system does not permit any individual attention. One man, skilled in defense, appointed as assistant coach in charge of this part of the game, would have the time to devote to the defensemen and bring their skills to a peak of performance. Another man appointed as offensive coach, would spend his time teaching the forward lines the tricks necessary to fit into the big picture.

Have you noticed that a rookie-of-the-year might easily be back in the minors the following season? This is an indictment of the present lack-of-coaching system. A prize rookie is no less skillful the second year, but without more personalized attention than is now possible, he loses his spirit and starts playing uninspired hockey. This is where an assistant coach would be able to salvage a fine player by spending extra time with him.

Do you remember when Kent Douglas of Toronto was rookie-of-the-year? He was outstanding on defense and a skilled, hard-nosed defenseman. He drifted back to the minors in his sophomore year. Since then he has been up and down and moving from club to club never quite finding himself. The head coaches now are so strapped for time they are unable to study a man's style and introduce corrective measures. Thus another budding star is lost.

Brit Selby was another bright prospect in the Toronto system. He was nothing short of sensational his rookie year in the NHL. Then, he too fell by the wayside and to everyone's amazement was back playing minor league hockey simply because there was nobody around with time to take an interest in bringing him out of his slump.

Goalies are a breed apart. Even they admit that no one understands or has enough goalie savvy to help them out of a slump, except another goalie. Perhaps it is not too far fetched to believe that a retired goalie would have the time to work with them to improve their games. The average coach hasn't the time or the know — how to straighten out a

potentially good netminder. They have their own individual problems and it takes a real goalie specialist to offer advice. A goalie coach could be used to handle the goalies for the parent club and the farm teams.

Jacques Plante was a sensational goalie for many years with Montreal and New York. Today, instead of coaching other goalies, he is attending a comeback with St. Louis Blues.

We are not rapping the head coaches of the 12 National Hockey League teams. This suggested realignment, however, would give them the opportunity to look over the entire set up and concentrate on the real weak spots in moulding a winning combination.

Even with such a system, every team can't win the pennant and somebody is going to finish last, but the tremendous show that will be put on night after night will delight the fans and owners alike. The skills of the assistant coaches will determine to a large extent how much success the Head Coach will have in polishing each man's skills into the epitome of perfection.

It is extremely difficult for a forward to understand the role of the defenseman and vice versa. Can you expect a man who has played a wing position his entire career to be able to teach defensemen how to play the rearguard position? It is impossible because a forward does not have any depth of experience on the rear lines and his instructions would lack conviction and authority.

Would you expect Jacques Laperriere to diagnose Jean Beliveau's problems when he is slumping? Could Gump Worsley tell Stan Mikita what he is doing wrong in his stick handling? Would Bobby Hull be the man to show Ed Giacomin how to stop a hard shot?

Yet NHL head coaches are called upon to do this very thing day after day even though they have no actual past experience on a particular phase of the game. They could truly be called the miracle men of the ice rinks. They consistently come up with comparatively good looking teams that provide many exciting moments during each game. But the average fan can detect many gaping blunders that prove that all of a team's personnel are not thoroughly trained in their specialty.

What is the cure now for the average player when he inevitably hits a slump? He is generally benched for a while in the hope that watching the game from the sidelines will instill more spirit in him and open his eyes to the mistakes he has been making. If there is no great improvement in his play when he returns to the ice, there is no specialist for him to turn to, who has any extra time to spend helping him regain his former style. He then goes from bad to worse, becoming more and more frustrated because if he cannot correct his problems he will be heading back to the minors.

Many times you have seen the Montreal Canadiens move down the ice with their centerman crossing over to the right wing just as he reaches the blue line. He then drops the puck for his right winger and continues with swift strides down toward the net. It is a devastating play only because most defensemen start moving backwards trying to poke check the puck away. This play could be broken up nearly every time, if a knowledgeable assistant defensive coach taught his charges to delay the centerman physically by skating him off the puck. Since the play is so successful and so obvious to the spectators, the only explanation can be that the coaches in attempting to look over the whole picture are either missing the play or have not had time to train their backline in removing this threat defensively.

Is there any reason why the entire league shouldn't reassess their present coaching alignments? Such a change would give each head coach the opportunity to readjust his sights and leave the individual instructions to the assistant coaches. The responsibility for developing the defensemen and the forwards would rest on the shoulders of these coaches who specialized in each particular field while playing actively.

The head coach would then bring these units together and weld them into a beautifully trained team that would be a delight to behold. It would eliminate much of the ragged and even sloppy play that is so much of the game today. It would save the skills of our aging stars, to be passed on to the future greats. And it would bring to stardom, many fringe players who today cannot reach their potential without the individual guidance they so sadly lack under the present coaching setup in the National Hockey League.

The team that adopts this plan first, will reap the benefits through increased attendance, increased revenue and a better winning record. It will be a team that will delight the critical eyes of every fan. And it will raise the calibre of hockey to the scientific level it so justly deserves. ●

DESPITE BAD BACK McCORD DOES JOB

By BILL LIBBY

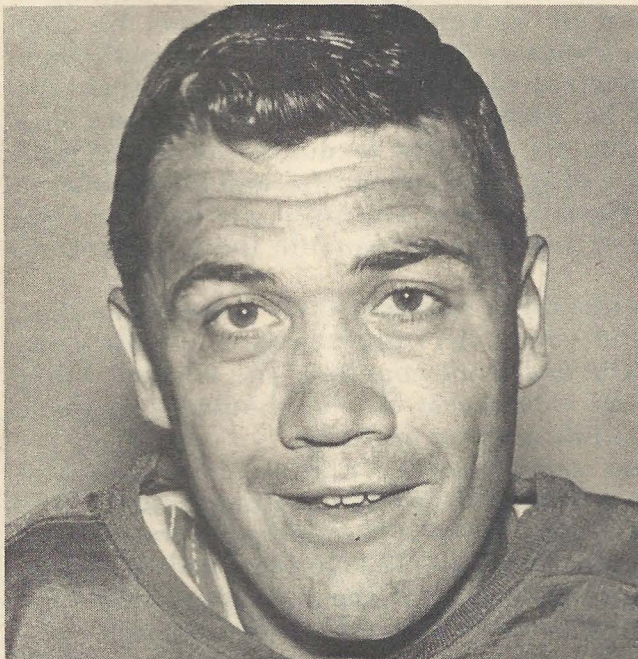
Bob McCord is 34 years old. He has been a professional hockey player for fourteen seasons. It took him ten years to make the majors and after he got there he got in only one full season and bounced up and down between the big time and the small time so often he felt like a human yo-yo. So last season, when he got his chance to be a regular in the National League, he gave it everything he had, even though what he had was in pretty bad shape.

McCord has a bad back. Not many know it. He doesn't sound off about it. But it is awful. He has to endure muscle spasms that flare up and cause him intense suffering. Not a slick fellow or an agile skater to begin with, he now finds his mobility severely limited. Sometimes he wears a brace. Sometimes he can't even dress himself. Sometimes he has trouble tying his shoes. But he goes on, because this is his game.

He's seen more doctors than a hypochondriac, but nothing is broken and his condition apparently is not

correctable. It's just something he has to endure. So, after missing part of the 1965 season with his bad back, he decided to quit worrying about it and to do the best he could with it. When he was traded to Minnesota last season, he seized his opportunity in his two strong hands, grit his teeth and carried on with stunning determination.

Minnesota has a fine young defenseman named Mike McMahon. Mike is sort of like the brilliant Bobby Orr. He carries the puck spectacularly, skates swiftly, passes and shoots superbly. But with all this moving with the puck, he sometimes neglects his defensive position. To play freely and take extreme advantage of his special skills, McMahon needs a smart, tough, steady defenseman to team up with him, to back him up and cover up for him. Early last season, Minnesota general manager and coach Wren Blair dealt Jean-Guy Talbot to Detroit for McCord and he got just the man he needed. Minnesota's "Mac-Mac



Minnesota North Stars secured McCord, left, from Detroit in trade for Jean-Guy Talbot, right, early last season.



Minnesota general manager Wren Blair has traded for McCord twice: first at Boston, above, and then with North Stars last year.



McCord won many honors in the uniform of AHL Springfield Indians, above, with whom he played for parts of nine different campaigns.

Gun" shelled the opposition from the rear.

McMahon proved himself one of the most gifted prospects in hockey last season, but he couldn't have done it without McCord's help," Blair said. "Not many realize how much pain Bob endures to do well, but he has a lot of courage. He did just what we wanted him to do. He played a rugged game of defense and he filled all the gaps vacated by McMahon. He helped Mike tremendously. I traded for him before, at Boston, and now here at Minnesota. Getting him, was one of the best moves I ever made."

"I couldn't have had the good season I had if it hadn't been for McCord," McMahon admits. "He covered up for me all the way. He gave me the freedom to go with the puck. He stopped other teams from taking advantage of my dashes up the rink. I have a lot to learn about playing defense, about playing good offense, while not giving away too much defense. McCord helped me here, too. He sacrificed himself pretty good."

McCord shrugs. "I was given a job to do and I did it as best I could. I'm not a big offensive player, anyway. I never could move or shoot the way McMahon can. But I've been around a long time and I know the game pretty well. If I can cover up for him, Mike can go. When Mike goes, we're a good team. If I help make this a good team, then I help make a job for myself. With my back and all, I don't have too much time left. I have to make the most of what I do have. When Blair gave me a tremendous opportunity and I couldn't let it get away from me."

Robert Lomer McCord was born March 20, 1934 in Timmins, Ontario. He graduated from the Kitchener Greenshirts and the Montreal Junior Canadiens to the professional ranks in 1955. He played nine seasons for Eddie Shore's Springfield team in the American League, with a couple of hitches with Three Rivers in the Quebec League then was traded to Boston for Bruce Gamble, Dale Rolfe, Terry Gray and Randy Miller in June of 1963.

Bob played for Boston in 1964, divided 1965 between Boston and Pittsburgh of the AHL, then was traded with Ab McDonald and Ken Stephenson to Detroit for Parker MacDonald, Al Langlois and Bob Dillabough in May of 1965. He split the 1966 and 1967 seasons between Detroit and the Red Wings' AHL farm in Pittsburgh. Detroit protected him in the draft, but then traded him to Minnesota after last season began.

McCord was perhaps the outstanding defenseman in the American League through the late 1950's and early 1960's. Frequently a first all-star, he won the Eddie Shore Plaque as the circuit's outstanding defenseman in 1961 and 1967. He was third in the MVP voting and led Pittsburgh to the AHL championship in 1967.

A rugged player, he has had as many as 114 minutes in penalties in a single season: 1960. In 1965, he led all play-off performers with 44 minutes in penalties during the post-season schedule. A better offensive stylist than many realize, he four times had ten or more goals, with a high of 12 in 1961, and nine times had 20 or more assists, with a high of 36 in 1961. That year, he set a personal high with 46 total points.

McCord did not get a crack at the big leagues until he had passed his peak. Once there, he found the pressure difficult to bear. "I can't honestly say I had a real

Involved in McCord Deal

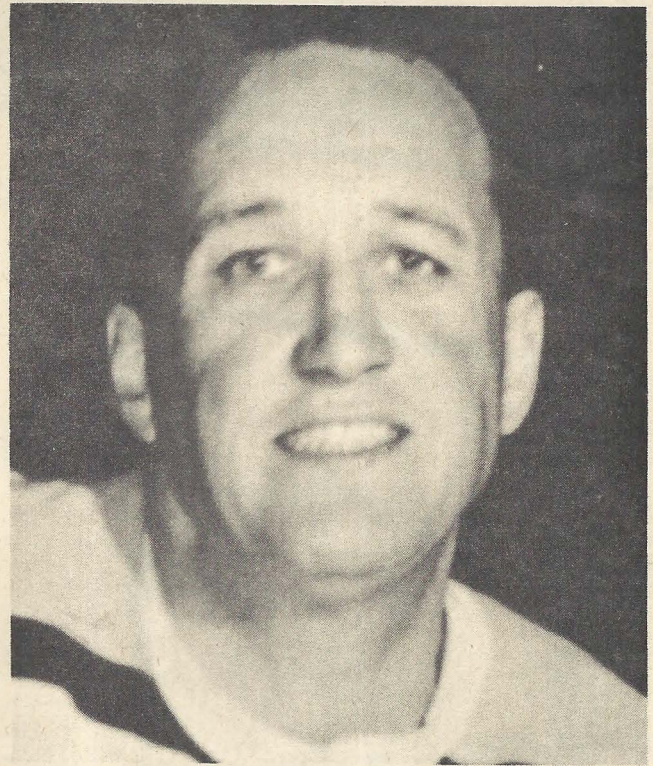


In 1965 McCord was traded from Boston to Detroit with Ab McDonald for Parker MacDonald, above, and Junior Langlois, right.

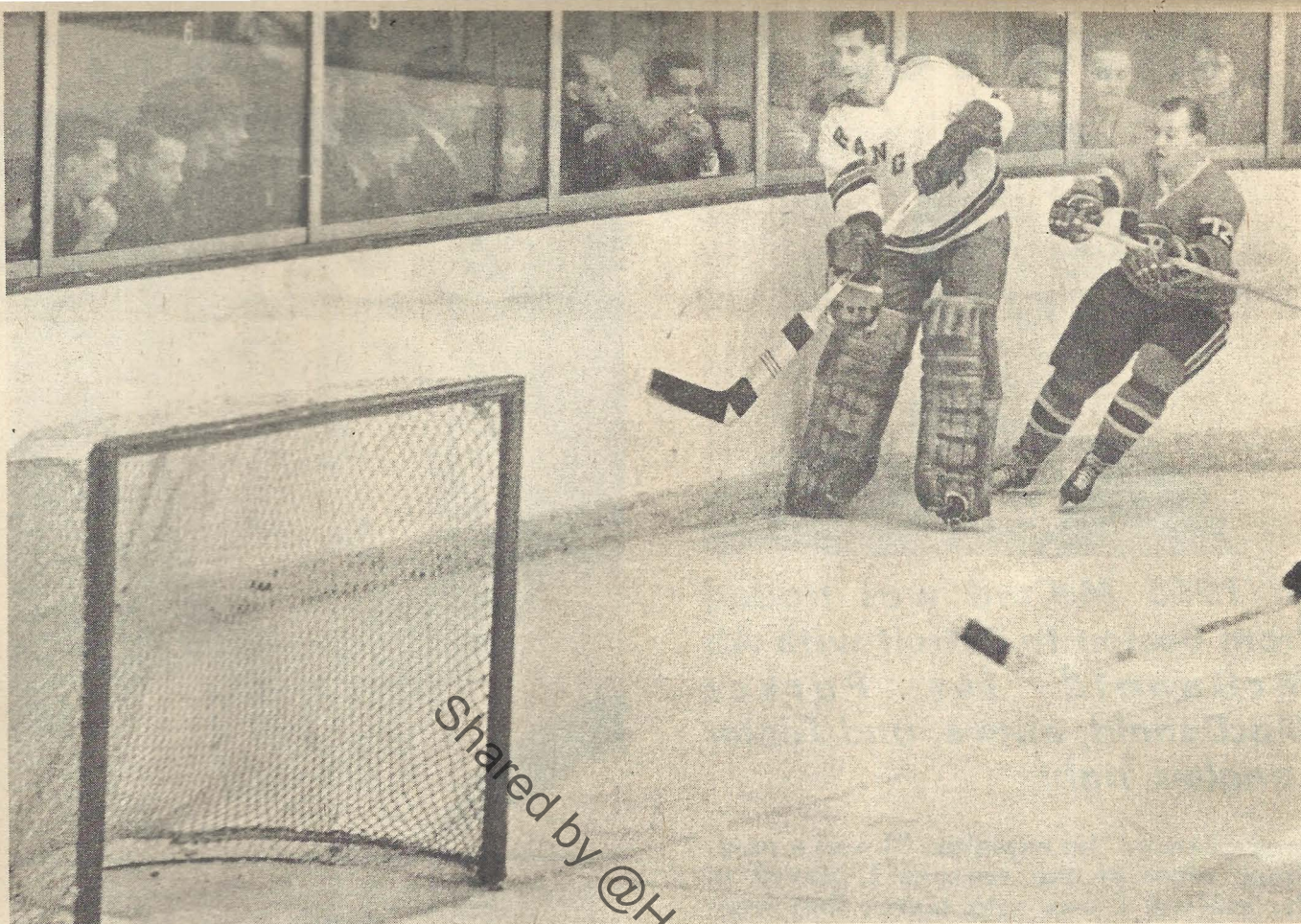
good chance," he explains. "I was a part-timer most of the seasons I played in the majors. I was with teams that were struggling. I had to prove that one slip and I'd be sent back down. It's hard to play at 100 per cent when you know you can't afford a single mistake. It's tough to do your best under those circumstances. Then my back started acting up and I never again was the player I had been the first few years of my pro career.

"But I still feel I can do a big league job. Wren gave me the chance to do a job and win a spot. He showed a lot of confidence in me. He gave me a challenge. I worked my head off to meet it. I think I proved myself valuable to the team. I think I have a good shot at holding on to a regular job for this season. The big leagues is the only place to play, and I just haven't had my share of it. Despite my back, I'm feeling sort of young again. But it's tough. It's a fast, tough league and you can't let up for a second."

McCord didn't . He played sure, tough defense. He played three games for Detroit without getting a goal last season, then played 70 games for Minnesota with only three goals. He added nine assists, and logged 41 minutes in penalties. In Minnesota's 14-game playoff run, Bob picked up another couple of goals, one of them



MIKE McMAHON . . . has own "caddy"



With Minnesota goalie Cesare Maniago (shown here in Ranger garb) displaying signs of wanderlust on occasion, McCord and rest of the team's blueline corps must constantly be on their toes to cover up.

a critical tally that helped the North Stars overcome Los Angeles in the opening round. He picked up five more assists, and added ten minutes in penalties.

Meanwhile, McMahon collected 14 goals and 33 assists in the regular season and three more goals and seven more assists in the playoffs. But he would not have been free to perform so brilliantly, had it not been for the old pro with the bad back behind him.

McCord has been married 14 years to the former Nancy Oliver. They have four children — Robbie, 12; Douglas, 11; Maureen, 10, and Cheryl, 2.

Contrary to the Canadian policy, McCord admits he found Timmins too cold and for many years now has made his permanent home in Springfield. At this point in his career, he is reluctant to make a change, although he likes the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. "We've gotten pretty well settled in Springfield, which is beautiful, and where I work as a carpenter in the off-season," he explains. "I've been

kicked around a lot and moved around a lot in my career and it doesn't help kids to be shoved from city to city. Still, a family needs a father. Professional sports is difficult in this respect."

Although he looks like he should be, and really is a pretty tough fighter, McCord doesn't go around looking for trouble these days. "Any time I want trouble, it's right behind me, in my back," he smiles wistfully. "But I don't even bring it up unless someone asks me about it. I'm not trying to hide it, I'm just not trying to make more of it than it is. I have a bad back that I've had to learn to live with. I want to be judged the only way any hockey player should be judged, which is by my performance on the ice. When I can't cut it, let them cut me. All I ask is a regular job and a chance to do a job."

The old pro, who "caddies" for the kid star, is a workman of high order, who has hammered out a long career for himself in the shadows, and is long overdue to play out the string in the spotlight. ●

NHL CAPTAINS SPEAK OUT

This month, HOCKEY WORLD MAGAZINE presents the views of many of the NHL's playing captains, comparing some of their all-star preferences to those of various general managers surveyed.

The captains were also asked to name such things as the toughest, most lenient and best coaches. The managers were also asked to pick the best managers, coaches, players and teams of all time.

The captains were promised anonymity in exchange for objectivity, as were the managers.

The following, for better or worse, represents the private personal opinions of men whose tastes should count.



Captains selected Tim Horton, right, as best defensive player in NHL, while managers named Maurice Richard, left, as most colorful and exciting star of all time.



TOE BLAKE
... best coach



PUNCH IMLACH
... toughest mentor



SID ABEL
... smartest hockey man

The captains who have to wear them, agreed that Detroit Red Wings have "the most attractive uniforms," followed by the Chicago Black Hawk togs and the Toronto Maple Leaf outfits. Other support went to the uniforms of the Montreal Canadiens and Oakland Seals.

The captains also agreed with the writers on "the least attractive uniforms," with Los Angeles ranking first, followed by Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Minnesota.

Which city is the best "hockey town" with the most knowing people? The captains who voted named Toronto by a slim margin over Montreal in a close contest. Detroit ranked next. The worst? Oakland, followed by New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Which arena draws the prettiest women? The captains voted for Montreal,

with Los Angeles second and Chicago third followed by Detroit and Toronto.

Which arena draws the least attractive women? The captains named New York, Boston and Oakland in that order.

The managers, being too old and too straight-laced for such nonsense, were not asked this question.

As for the "best liberty-town," the captains went for Montreal, with the managers agreeing. Chicago, the writers' choice, ranked second, with New York, Los Angeles and the combination of Oakland and San Francisco tied for third.

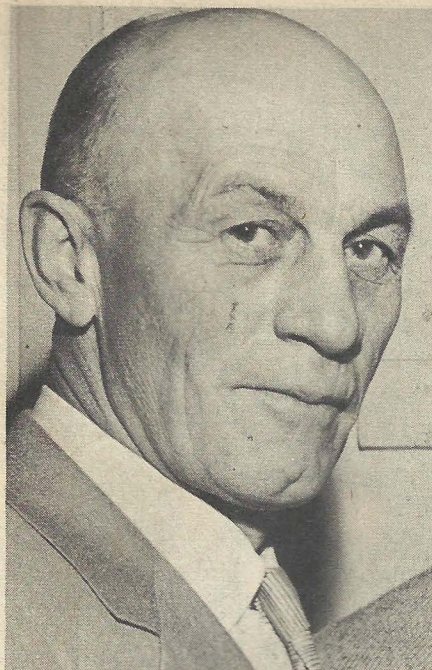
As for the worst, the captains went for Philadelphia, with Minnesota next, followed by Boston and St. Louis. The managers named Minnesota.

There was no agreement about the best hotels or restaurants. Among the hotels, there was support for

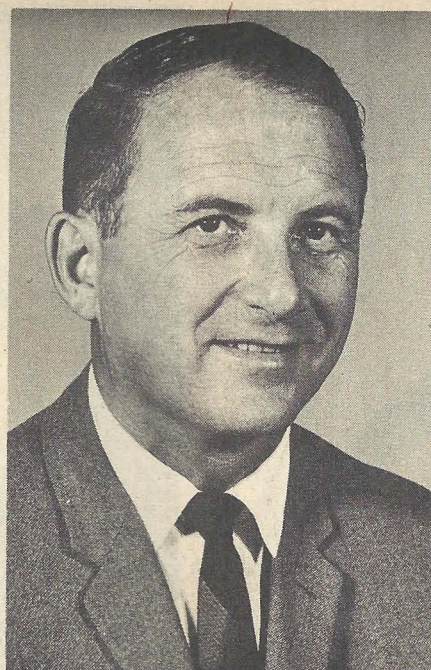
the Royal York in Toronto, the Queen Elizabeth in Montreal, the Mount Royal in Montreal and the Chase-Park and Bel-Air in St. Louis. Among the restaurants, there was support for George Diamond's in Chicago, the Mayfair in Detroit, the Blue Fox in San Francisco, Tracton's in L.A., George's in Toronto and the Neptune in Montreal.

The best broadcaster? The captains named Danny Gallivan of Montreal. Bill Hewitt of Toronto ranked next, followed by Bud Lynch of Detroit. Other support went to Foster Hewitt of Toronto, Bruce Martyn of Detroit, Lloyd Petit of Chicago, Tim Ryan of Oakland, Stu Nahan of Philadelphia and Ken McDonald of L.A.

The best hockey writer? Again the captains agreed with the writers that it was Red Fisher of Montreal, but



EDDIE SHORE
... toughest player



RED FISHER
... best writer



KEITH ALLEN
... most lenient pilot

it was very close. Other support went to Dick Beddoes of Toronto, Bill Brennan of Detroit, Scott Young of Toronto, Bill Libby of Los Angeles, Milt Dunnell of Toronto and Leo Monahan of Boston.

The captains named Toronto as the best newspaper town as far as hockey is concerned, with Montreal ranking next. The worst? L.A., Chicago and New York ran a dead heat. The managers generally agreed. The favorite paper? The Toronto Globe & Mail, followed by the Toronto Star and the Montreal Star.

The smartest man in hockey? The captains went for Sid Abel of Detroit in an exceedingly close contest with the now-retired Toe Blake of Montreal, Billy Reay of Chicago, Bert Olmstead of Oakland last season, and one player, Godie Howe of Detroit. Also receiving extensive support were Sam Pollock of Montreal, Harry Sinden of Boston, Punch Imlach of

Toronto, Keith Allen and Bud Poile of Philadelphia, Wren Blair of Minnesota, Lynn Patrick of St. Louis, Emile Francis of New York and the late Jack Adams. The managers went for Blake.

The best manager? The captains went for Sid Abel of Detroit, followed by Punch Imlach of Toronto and Jack Riley of Pittsburgh. Other support went to Sam Pollock of Montreal, Bud Poile of Philadelphia, Emile Francis of New York, Lynn Patrick of St. Louis, Wren Blair of Minnesota and Milt Schmidt of Boston. The managers again went for Pollock.

The toughest coach? The players who voted went for Punch Imlach of Toronto number one by a shade over Bert Olmstead, formerly of Oakland, with Wren Blair of Minnesota a distant third. Also receiving support was Rudy Pilous, now of Denver.

The most lenient coach? The playing captains selected Keith Allen of Philadelphia as number one, Sid Abel of Detroit now

retired as coach, number two, and Red Kelly of Los Angeles, number three is a close ballot.

Which brings us to the best coach. The playing captains selected the retired Blake of Montreal number one and Sid Abel of Detroit number two with Billy Reay of Chicago number three. Others gaining support were minor-leaguer Hal Laycoe of Portland, Red Kelly of L.A., Keith Allen of Philadelphia, Harry Sinden of Boston, Bert Olmstead formerly of Oakland, Scotty Bowman of St. Louis and Red Sullivan of Pittsburgh.

The managers went for Blake too.

The captains selected Bobby Hull of Chicago as the best skater in the game, followed by Frank Mahovlich of Detroit, Dave Keon of Toronto, Ken Wharram of Chicago and Gordie Howe of Detroit, in that order. They named Hull as the best shooter, followed by Mikita, Howe and Wayne Connelly of Minnesota in that order.



Bobby Orr, left, was named "best young player in the game", while Gordie Howe, centre, was considered "best — and meanest — player". At right is Bill Chadwick, ranked by managers as outstanding referee of all time.

The captains picked Tim Horton of Toronto as the best defensive player, with Dave Keon of Toronto and Gilles Tremblay of Montreal next, and other support going to Bob Pulford of Toronto, Bobby Baun of Oakland and Donnie Marshall of New York.

Bobby Orr of Boston was named the best all-around defenseman, followed by Gary Bergman of Detroit, Mike McMahon of Minnesota, Bill White of Los Angeles and Pat Stapleton of Chicago.

Gordie Howe was chosen the "meanest player," followed by Ted Green of

Boston and Reg Fleming of New York.

The best player? Gordie Howe of Detroit was number one, with Stan Mikita of Chicago number two and Bobby Hull of Chicago number three. Other support went to Rod Gilbert of New York, and Jean Beliveau of Montreal.

The managers agreed, though with them Hull ranked just ahead of Mikita.

The most colorful and exciting player? Hull, with Gilbert second and Orr third, followed by Gump Worsley of Montreal and Cesare Maniago of Minnesota.

The best young player

prospect in the game? The captains named Bobby Orr, followed by Mike Walton of Toronto and Rog Vachon of Montreal. Others receiving support were Jacques Lemaire of Montreal, Fred Stanfield of Boston, Derek Sanderson of Boston, Doug Favell of Philadelphia, Wayne Rutledge of Los Angeles, Bill Flett of Los Angeles and Mike McMahon of Minnesota.

The best referee? The playing captains chose John Ashley in a close contest, with Vern Buffey and Bill Friday tied for second. Other support went to Art Skov, Lloyd Gilmour, John Damico and Bruce Hood.

The managers who voted named Bill Chadwick the outstanding referee of all-time. They also named Lester Patrick the top manager and Hap Day the top coach of all time.

The managers selected Maurice Richard as the most colorful and exciting player of all time, followed by Howie Morenz, Eddie Shore and Bobby Hull.

They named Shore as the toughest player, followed by Gordie Howe and Ted Lindsay.

The named Shore as the best defenseman, followed by Doug Harvey.

Terry Sawchuk was selected best goal-tender, followed by Bill Durnan.

They chose Howe as the outstanding player of all time, followed by Shore, Richard, Hull, Harvey, Morenz and Bill Cook.

They picked an all-time all-star team, (see box).

And, finally, they selected the Montreal team of 1956 as the outstanding team of all time. This club was managed by Frank Selke and coached by Toe Blake and included Jacques Plante in goal. Doug Harvey and Tom Johnson on defense and Maurice and Henri Richard, Jean Beliveau, Dickie Moore, Bert Olmstead, Bernie Geoffrion up front. It had a 43-10-17 record during the regular season and won the playoffs in ten games.

Ranked second was the Detroit team of 1952, which was managed by Jack Adams, coached by Tommy Ivan, had Terry Sawchuk in goal, Red Kelly and Bob Goldham on defense and Gordie Howe Sid Abel and Ted Lindsay up front. It compiled a 44-14-2 regular-season record and swept the playoffs in eight straight games.

ALL-TIME ALL-STARS (Selected by various NHL Managers)		
FIRST TEAM		
Pos.	Player	Main Teams
Goal	Terry Sawchuk	Detroit, Toronto
Defense	Doug Harvey	Montreal, N.Y.
Defense	Eddie Shore	Boston
Right Wing	Gordie Howe	Detroit
Left Wing	Bobby Hull	Chicago
Center	Howie Morenz	Montreal
Coach	Hap Day	Toronto
Manager	Lester Patrick	New York
SECOND TEAM		THIRD TEAM
Bill Durnan, Montreal	Goal	Frank Brimsek, Boston
King Clancy, Toronto	Defense	Babe Siebert, Boston
Ching Johnson, New York	Defense	Red Kelly, Detroit
Maurice Richard, Montreal	Right Wing	Bill Cook, New York
Aurel Joliat, Montreal	Left Wing	Ted Lindsay, Detroit
Frank Boucher, New York	Center	Jean Beliveau, Montreal
Toe Blake, Montreal	Coach	Tommy Ivan, Detroit
Jack Adams, Detroit	Manager	Punch Imlach, Toronto
HONORABLE MENTION		
Goalies — Glenn Hall, Turk Broda, Johnny Bower, Tiny Thompson, Jacques Plante, George Hainsworth.		
Defensemen — Earl Seibert, Ebbie Goodfellow, Ken Reardon, Tim Horton, Emile Bouchard, Babe Pratt, Pierre Pilote, Tim Horton, Syl Mantha, Bill Gadsby, Jack Stewart, Lionel Conacher, Art Coulter.		
Forwards — Harvey Jackson, Milt Schmidt, Sid Abel, Charley Conacher, Bryan Hextall, Nels Stewart, Andy Bathgate, Joe Malone, Newsy Lalonde, Doug Bentley, Cy Denneny, Frank Nighbor, Babe Dye.		
Coaches — Punch Imlach, Lester Patrick, Jack Adams, Pete Green, Dick Irvin.		
Managers — Conn Smythe, Frank Selke, Sam Pollock, Tommy Gorman, Art Ross, Cecil Hart, Sid Abel.		

Ranked third was the Boston team of 1939, managed and coached by Art Ross and with Frank Brimsek in the nets, Eddie Shore and Dit Clapper on defense and Milt Schmidt, Bobby Bauer, Woody Dumart, Roy Conacher and Bill Cowley up front. It went 36-10-2 in the regular season and won the playoffs in twelve games.

Ranked fourth was the Toronto team of 1948, managed by Conn Smythe, coached by Hap Day, with Turk Broda in nets and such stars as Bill Ezinicki, Harry Watson, Syl Apps, Ted Kennedy and Max Bentley. It was 32-15-3 during the regular season and won the playoffs in nine games.

Ranked fifth was the Montreal team of 1944, managed by Tommy Gorman and coached by Dick Irvin, with Bill Durnan in the nets and such stars as Maurice Richard, Elmer Lach, Emile Bouchard, Toe Blake and Kenny Reardon. It had a 38-5-7 regular-season and won the playoffs in nine games.

Also mentioned were the Montreal teams of 1958 and 1960, the Detroit team of 1955, the Toronto team of 1963 and the Ottawa team of 1927.

So there it is, the preferences of various NHL playing captains, with choices of many of the circuit's managers thrown in for taste. ●

LACROIX HOPES TO "CROSS UP" FLYERS' RIVALS

By EMILIE MULHOLLAND

THROUGH THE YEARS, there have been a number of famous crosses in North America.

History books tell us of the cross erected atop Mount Royal by Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, after the infant colony of Montreal escaped destruction in the flood on Christmas Day in 1642.

The United States Presidential campaign of 1896 is best remembered because of the "Cross of Gold" speech delivered by the Democratic nominee, William Jennings Bryant.

If you are old enough, you may seen the early Cecil B. DeMille epic "Sign of the Cross."

And then there is that old saying about every man having his own cross to bear.

The "cross" on the way to becoming Philadelphia's most famous, however, goes by the first name of Andre — Andre Lacroix — and he's one cross coach Keith Allen and the Flyers are happy to bear!

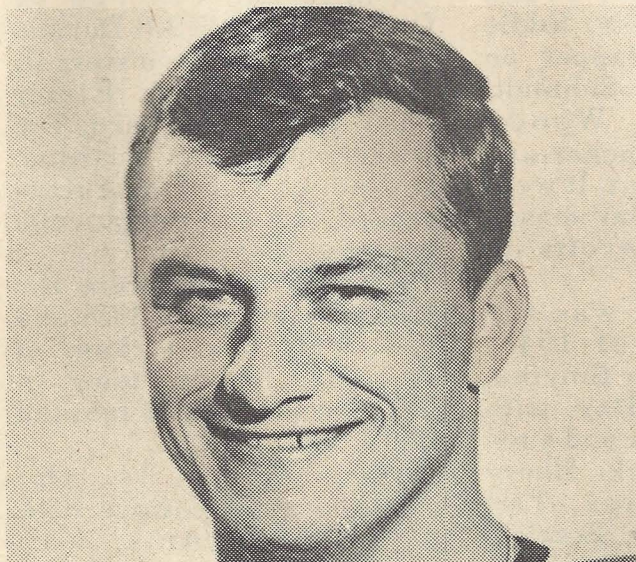
In fact, Lacroix may turn out to be

Philadelphia's first Calder Memorial Trophy winner as Rookie of the Year. He has everything going for him and if he lives up to his last year's promise, he can't miss that and a lot of other honors in 68-69, his first full NHL season.

Andre burst upon the Philadelphia scene like a Cape Kennedy rocket last February, and immediately won the hearts of the Flyers faithful.

His basic appeal at first sight is his size. He's small, at 5-9 and 165 or 170. He shoots around on the ice weaving in and out like a scaback in football, and feeds off hitting the open man on his line like the NBA's fabled Johnny Kerr — only Andre's got a puck instead of a basketball.

Ever since Flyers President Bill Putnam announced the purchase of controlling interest in the Quebec Aces of the American Hockey League, Philadelphia heard 'Andre Lacroix this' and 'Andre Lacroix that'. But like sports fans in most cities with professional clubs in all major sports, the fans were skeptical. And



With Flyers this year for first full NHL season Lacroix is being reunited with former Quebec Aces linemates Simon Nolet, left, and Jean-Guy Gendron, right.

*André
Lacroix*

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BUD POILE ... wouldn't panic

you couldn't blame them. They had heard these stories before — from the Phillies and the Eagles about the fabulous rookie coming up who was another Steven Van Buren or Robin Roberts. But the other Van Buren and the other Roberts have yet to appear, at least in Philadelphia.

The more interested or curious among Flyers fans travelled to Hershey and Baltimore when the Aces played to see for themselves.

To them, this 'phenom' looked good, but he seemed awfully small. And while he was leading the AHL in scoring, they knew the AHL is not the NHL, and he'd have to show them.

Andre showed them alright — and it took him only two games to do it.

He got his first goal in his first NHL game — and it was the game — tying goal. In his second game, his first one in Philadelphia, all he did was set up three goals by teammate Leon Rochefort and score another one himself. Andre and Leon thus set a Flyers club record that evening for most points in one game, four. It also was the first hat trick recorded in the Spectrum, Philadelphia's troubled new rink.

Lacroix came up with two games like this while under tremendous pressure, much more than most rookies have.

To begin with, there had been all those stories about him. Every time he hung up another hat trick for Quebec it was duly reported in the Philadelphia newspapers along with the speculation that he might soon be brought up to the Flyers. He had six hat tricks including a 4-goal game against Providence in 67-

68, and in that Providence game he also had two assists for a total of 6 points!

Recalling a player from the minors who's having a hot year isn't exactly the way to win friends and influence people — a fact Flyers Vice President and General Manager Bud Poile well knew. Besides, everyone — including Andre — felt that a year at Quebec would do Lacroix more good than a year in Philadelphia at this stage in his career.

But goal scoring on the Philadelphia club had been a problem all season long and by February it had reached the 'we gotta do something soon' stage.

On February 20, the Flyers had a 25-23-8 record and a slight four-point lead over second place Minnesota. But they weren't scoring goals. They had lost three straight games — matching their longest losing streak of the season to date — and only scored two goals in those three losses. In fact they had a 2-4 record on what was a 7-game road trip and had scored only 8 goals in those 6 games.

"We just HAVE to score more goals," Coach Allen said.

But neither Allen nor Poile said they had panicked.

"Let's just say I'm concerned," Bud said. "I think this slump is just temporary, but I don't want to take any chances."

So in order not to take any chances, Poile called up Andre Lacroix, Jean Guy Gendron and Rosaire Paiement from Quebec. There were some injuries on the Flyers — Brit Selby, Gary Dornhoefer and Don Blackburn were all hurting — and, as Poile said at the time "a few new faces won't hurt us right now."

"They should give us some scoring punch," Bud added.

At the time they reported to the Flyers, Lacroix had 41 goals and 46 assists to lead the AHL with 87 points. Gendron had 24 goals and 42 assists for 66 points and Paiement had 14 goals and 24 assists for 38 points.

"These three will shake up a few people just by being here," predicted one Flyers official. How right he was!

Paiement already had a built-in following in Philadelphia thanks to his 66-67 season with the Jersey Devils when he led the EHL in scoring with 125 points.

But all eyes were on little Lacroix in his first NHL game February 21 in Pittsburgh. The game was being carried back to Philadelphia on television. And his Quebec

teammates and coach Vic Stasiuk were in the stands watching too — the Aces, en route to Cleveland for a game, stopped off to see their star make his debut in the big time.

Lacroix didn't disappoint anyone.

He went out at center with Guy and Wayne Hicks on his wings and at 4:40 of the second period tied the game 1-1.

"As soon as I got the puck I made up my mind what I was going to do," Andre said later. "If you change your mind, you'll never score. I came across the blue line and faked Binkley (Penguins goalie Les Binkley) left, then shot right. He went for the fake and I had the open side of the net to put it in."

It sounds so simple when Andre tells it. The 'double deke' he pulled on Binkley was familiar enough to AHL fans and Aces coach Stasiuk, who was full of enthusiasm for Andre on a between periods TV interview. "Did you see him? Did you see that?" Vic asked. "Wait till you see him really go. He's got a lot more moves like that," Stasiuk added appreciatively.

Andre almost won the game twice in the third period but Binkley blocked both shots. Still, thanks to Andre the Flyers had their point in four games.

"I was nervous," Andre admitted after the game. "You always want to do well in your first game. I know I will do better the next game. I won't be so nervous," Lacroix said with quiet assurance.

And what a prophet he turned out to be!

There were 14,392 paid fans in the Spectrum February 22. They were drawn by the battle for first place between their Flyers and the North Stars, to be sure, but also by the fact that Andre would be playing his first game in Philadelphia.

When he skated out on the ice for the first time, there were some skeptics. After all, one game does not a season make, and he did look kind of small in that #15 uniform.

He smiled at the kids hanging over the low glass begging autographs and his dimples made him seem even more boyish and younger than his 22 years. And he signed a few programs and autograph books.

Once the game began, Andre took over and became a giant ten feet tall.

The Flyers got off to an early lead at 5:01 of the first period when the puck took a funny carom off the boards behind the North Stars net and landed right out in front of



Leading the cheering section for Lacroix, right, is his AHL coach at Quebec, Vic Stasiuk, left.

Claude Laforge. Claude was so shocked to see it land at his feet, he hesitated a second before putting it into the open net — goalie Cesare Maniago had gone behind the net to intercept what looked to be a routine pass until it hit that board. Milan Marcetta tied the game at 14:29 — but the North Stars hadn't reckoned with Lacroix.

Andre had Leon Rochefort on right wing and Brit Selby on left. And at 16:27 he fed Leon from behind the net to give the Flyers a lead they never lost. With 15 seconds to go in that period, Andre scored himself from a scramble in front of the net.

The Flyers broke strong in the second period with goals by Forbes Kennedy and Pat Hannigan before Minnesota got one back to make it 5-2, Flyers. Then Andre went to work again feeding Rochefort twice for tallies and the first Spectrum hat trick. His razzle — dazzle, dippy-doodle style was something to behold. It kept Minnesota off balance all night.

The North Stars got one more goal, but it really didn't matter. Although there was no scoring in the final period, Andre had the

crowd on its feet cheering again with some tricky passing the likes of which they hadn't seen since the Harlem Globetrotters.

Taking the puck down ice, Andre got to his own blue line when he started to be sandwiched by two North Stars. He merely passed the puck behind him — but through his legs — to a trailing teammate.

That really wowed 'em. They had come, they had seen and Andre had conquered them. He could have been elected Mayor that night, hands down.

He merely accounted for five points in his first two games, that's all. And when the P.A. announced Lacroix as Bulletin hockey writer John Brogan's choice as First Star of the Game, the fans went wild.

Rochefort was especially pleased by the turn of events. He had been benched the night before in Pittsburgh because he'd only scored twice in his last 17 games. Playing with Lacroix for the first time Leon got off 11 shots and made three of them count.

"He really gave me the chances," Leon said appreciatively. "He can really handle that puck. Our line

controlled the puck every time we were out there."

The fans just couldn't get over Andre.

"He's too much, just fantastic, fabulous," someone said to Marcel Pelletier. The Flyers coordinator of player personnel, never at a loss for words, raised his eyebrows, shrugged his shoulders and replied, "E is French, what else do you expect?"

But Andre's brilliance posed a tough decision for Bud Poile. He was up on emergency recall because of the injuries. Should he stay with the Flyers or go back to Quebec?

That night after the game, Andre said goodbye to some of his teammates. The veteran Guy Gendron, who'd been recalled with him, smiled quietly. "I will go back to Quebec, yes," he said. "But not Andre. I don't think he will be going back." As Guy looked at Andre you knew what he was thinking — to be Lacroix's age again, with all his ability and that future ahead of him. C'est la vie!

It was definitely a rough, tough decision. Andre's career was at stake and a wrong move at this time could be serious.

Poile wrestled with the problem himself Thursday night and most of Friday. He conferred with Allen and with Stasiuk. At one point there was a plane ticket ordered for Lacroix to return to the Aces. If he kept him in Philadelphia, the Quebec fans would scream. If he returned him to Quebec, the Flyers fans would scream. If he sent Andre back, he would win the AHL scoring title and cinch a playoff spot for the Aces. But if he kept Andre in Philadelphia, he could help the Flyers finish first and go into the Stanley Cup playoffs. What's a General Manager to do?

Friday evening, February 23, the decision was announced. Andre had signed a Flyers contract. He would finish the season in Philadelphia.

"The people in Quebec may never forgive me," Poile said. "And I know how they feel. I had players taken from me when I was in the minors — Glenn Hall and Normie Ullman. It's always unfortunate for the minor league club. But after all, these players want to make it to the NHL. That's their goal. And we were looking for a scorer. If we'd sent him back after what he did, he'd start to wonder what more he had to do to make the NHL, and I wouldn't blame him."

Trying to do the best for Lacroix, the Flyers and the Aces wasn't easy. And there were some screams in Quebec City. But there was a bright side to the Aces picture too. "It gives Vic a chance to play Serge Bernier," Pelletier said. "And wait till they see what he can do. He's good and he's a big kid, but there was no room to play him with Andre there." The Quebec fans, of course, realized this was the chance Andre had been waiting for all his life, and while they hated to see him go, they were happy for him too.

The final decision was left to Andre though.

"I honestly think it's the best thing for me to do," he said at the time. "I would have liked to win the scoring title at Quebec, but this is the NHL and you can't go any higher."

One of the things helping Andre to make up his mind was the enthusiastic Philadelphia crowd. Another was his acceptance by his new teammates.

There was one thing about staying in Philadelphia that did bother Andre though. The Quebec fans had already scheduled a 'night' for their young star and were all set to present him with a brand new automobile before one of the Aces games. He knew he would get the car eventually, but what bothered Andre most was that fans would be

cheated out of giving it to him in Le Colisee in Quebec.

"They have worked so hard and looked forward to this presentation," Andre said. "I hate to spoil it."

As it turned out the fans had their chance to give Andre the car in Quebec, and it was before an NHL game rather than an AHL contest. But that's getting ahead of the story.

Another thing that bothered Andre about staying in Philadelphia was that the Aces front office had recently ordered a new supply of post cards of him in an Aces uniform. Some 1,000 of them were to be delivered the following Monday. But now he was a Flyer and the post cards were out-of-date.

Ken Blackburn, Flyers treasurer, couldn't help but laugh when he heard about Andre's post cards. He had been through this before. When Blackburn was associated with the late Branch Rickey on the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball club, Pittsburgh's concessionaire Myron O'Brisky had several hundred Ralph Kiner buttons delivered just hours before Mr. Rickey traded the Pirates all-time homerun hitter to the Chicago Cubs!

Poile warned his young star that there would be plenty of nights when things wouldn't be as easy as they had been in those first two games, when there would be boos instead of cheers. Andre agreed this was true, but like most Frenchmen, Lacroix accepts things as they come. And watching him shoot and pass, you just know the cheers are going to outweigh the boos throughout his career.

The Flyers held an open practice session for their season ticket holders Saturday, February 24, at the Spectrum. And Andre amazed the spectators in practice too.

In a standard drill to sharpen the goalie's reflexes, two of his teammates face each other across the ice each with five or six pucks in front of him. They shoot pucks, alternating, in rapid fire succession like a golfer practicing teeing off on a driving range, so that the goalie must move from right to left. When Lacroix took his turn on this drill, he put five out of six pucks past Dougie Favell.

At the end of the practice, the Flyers dressed and mingled with the fans in the stands, answering questions, signing autographs and posing for pictures. Some of them hurried through the crowd or ducked out the back way.

But not Andre. And he was mobbed.

He stood for a good 20 minutes with his back to the wall in the Spectrum's main concourse literally buried in people, signing one autograph book after another, smiling, laughing, thoroughly captivating children and oldsters to say nothing of the teen-age girls. Those bright flashing eyes, that quick smile, pleasing personality, devastating dimples and all that French charm are just too much off the ice as well as on.

Poile's warning started to come true the next night. It was a bad game all around for the Flyers. They hit the post two or three times and lost a 2-1 decision to the Penguins. The Flyers took 30 shots, high for them, and Andre's line had 10 of them, although they weren't involved in the team's lone goal.

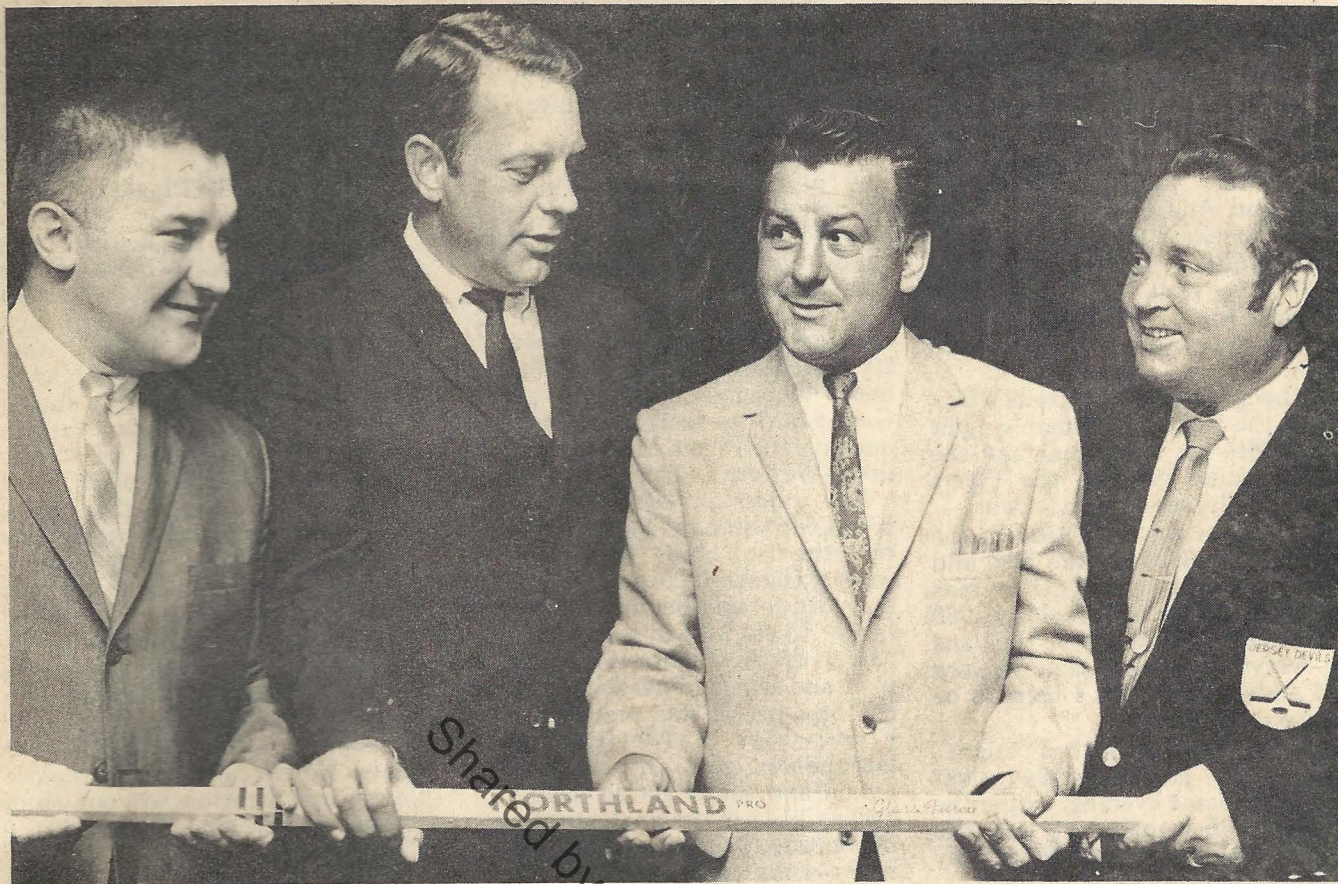
Bad weather held the Spectrum crowd down to 9,115 for the next game on February 29, and it was just as well. The Flyers dropped a 3-1 game to L.A., and saw their Western Division lead drop to three points over the Kings who moved ahead of Minnesota on the strength of that win.

The Flyers should have known things weren't going to be good from the moment the Kings set foot on the ice that night. The opposition looked like extras straight out of Central Casting for a B movie on flower children. Four or five of them sported extra-long sideburns and "Cowboy" Bill Flett wore a purple turtleneck jersey under his sweater.

Flett, turtleneck and all, gave LA the lead at 1:23 of the first period, but at 14:58 of that rough first period, Rochefort converted a pass from Lacroix and Selby to even it up.

There was no scoring in the second period but Selby deep in the throws of a morale-killing slump, missed another in what proved to be a succession of missed breakaways, and the goal might have made the difference to the Flyers. Lacroix backhanded a pass which freed Brit. He faked twice, skated past goalie Wayne Rutledge but hit the outside of the net.

Though the Flyers didn't know it then, that was to be their last game in the Spectrum until playoffs. The very next day, exceptionally high winds ripped up parts of the roof covering of the building. The Mayor ordered it closed and repairs, tests and other red tape kept it closed the entire month of March.



Philadelphia brass, in hopes of spawning more young prospects like Lacroix, have formed working agreement with Jersey Devils of Eastern League. Left to right are Devils' general manager Ed Ferentz, Flyers' president Bill Putnam, Jersey coach Marcel Pelletier and Devils' president Harold Aronow.

Allen juggled the lines in the Flyers 4-0 loss to New York, their third in a row that Saturday. Lacroix sprung his wing for a breakaway that was missed but it probably wouldn't have made any difference.

The Flyers played their first 'home' game on the road in New York the following day, Sunday, March 3, and managed to hold Oakland to a 1-1 tie, for their only point in four games. They seemed to be going through the same things they'd gone through before Lacroix arrived. Only Andre was with them now, and he couldn't pull the club out of it either. Nothing was going right for anyone. The Flyers tight defensive style seemed to have deserted them.

Just to add to their difficulties, the Flyers faced Toronto the day after the big trade. New Maple Leafs Normie Ullman, Paul Henderson and Floyd Smith all scored and even Bob Pulford, having an off-season, contributed two goals to show the fans they could win without the Big M, Frank Mahovlich.

The only bright spot for the Flyers was an improved power play which saw Andre on left point setting up two Philadelphia scores by Bill Sutherland. But both Sidsie and Andre were as unhappy as the rest of the Flyers. The 7-2 loss took the club under the .500 mark for the first time since November with a 26-27-10 record.

Their fifth loss in six games took place the next night, March 7th, in Toronto against Boston, 2-1. But the Flyers took heart in that loss. "We were back to our old defensive game. I think this might be the turning point," coach Allen remarked. And indeed it was. It was remarkable that the Flyers did as well against the hot Bruins as they did because they played most of the night with just three defensemen. Jean Gauthier was sidelined for a second straight night with flu. Larry Zeidel and Eddie Shack got into a bloody first period stick fight. Both were thrown out of the game. That left only Ed Van Impe, Joe Watson and John Miszuk on Flyers defense. All were superb though completely bushed at the end of the game.

Taking their remaining "home" games to Quebec's rink, the Flyers came up with a 3-1-1 record, and salvaged first place, and Andre played a major role in their success.

Quebec was a logical choice for the "home" rink. The fans were for the Flyers. The team felt at home - eight of the Flyers had played for Quebec at some time in their careers and the Aces fans were getting an opportunity to see their favorite, Lacroix, in action in the National League.

Andre made his homecoming a memorable occasion too. His beautiful fake and pass set up Watson with the first tally of the game at 1:31 of the third period to give the Flyers a 1-0 lead over Minnesota on March 10. Forbes Kennedy added an insurance tally at 4:06 of that period. Andre's assist on Watson's goal was his fifth point in two games against Minnesota. The win broke the Flyers winless streak and kept them in first place. A loss would have toppled them from first for the first time since December 30. Talk about pressure. And the 10,971 fans who trooped

through the snow to see the first NHL game in Quebec in more than 40 years loved every minute of it.

Scalpers outside Le Colisee were asking and getting \$25 for \$5.50 seats the night of March 17. The Flyers were playing the Maple Leafs and Andre was going to be honored between periods.

A standing-room-only mob of 13,650 packed the house that Beliveau built. A loss would have left the Flyers only one point ahead of LA.

Although it was St. Patrick's Day it was the little Frenchman's night and Andre got a new car and the game-winning goal as the Flyers took a wildly, see-sawing 7-4 win.

The Flyers got a 3-1 lead in the first period. Between the first and second periods, the Quebec fans presented Andre with a shiny 1968 Oldsmobile. He thanked the fans for everything they'd done for him and added "Someday I hope to be able to repay you."

Players honored with a "night" traditionally go on to play their worst that same evening. Under the pressure of wanting to hit the homerun or score a touchdown, they strike out or fumble the ball.

There was even more pressure on Andre, with all his family (and it's a large family) and friends in the stands. And he hadn't had a goal in six games.

Toronto came back in the 2nd period with the second of Floyd Smith's three goals and made the game 3-2, Flyers, going into the 3rd period.

At 3:57 of the final frame, Henderson tied it 3-all. But Claude Laforge, promoted to the Flyers from the Aces early in the season, got Philadelphia back in the lead, 4-3, with a goal at 4:44. Smith re-tied it with his third goal of the night at 11:40. And that's how it stood with about five minutes to go.

But Selby, still fighting a slump, took the puck into Toronto's end and passed back to Gauthier on the point. Jean shot and Lacroix standing by the corner of the net tipped it past goalie Bruce Gamble.

In their time-honored tradition, the Quebec crowd showered the ice with their overshoes as Andre was mobbed by his happy teammates.

But the game was far from over!

With 1:04 left, Selby drew a penalty and Punch Imlach pulled Gamble in favor of an extra skater. Toronto had a 6-4 man advantage. There was so much tension no one really knew who was on the ice, but it was all over in seconds.

Sutherland tried to get the puck

out of his own end and flipped it. It arched into the Toronto zone and into the open net. And with 19 seconds remaining, Gauthier did the same thing.

"That was my most important goal of the year and my best," bubbled Andre later. "But I was lucky too. I just got part of my stick handle on it — but it went in and that's what counts."

Andre got his fourth goal of the year in the Flyers next game, March 20, in Oakland. A slap shot from the Seals blue line went past goalie Gary Smith to help in the 5-1 win and give the Flyers a four-point lead in the Western Division.

But a loss in LA and another Kings win while the Flyers were idle tied the two clubs with the last week of the season to go.

Andre got another important goal in the Flyers 2-0 win over St. Louis March 28 in Quebec. With Glenn Hall and Dougie Favell in the nets the first period was scoreless. The Flyers took a 1-0 lead on a Dornhoefer goal in the second period and Andre got an insurance goal at 19:12 of the final period on a breakaway. The win gave the Flyers a two-point edge on LA with two games to go.

The Flyers didn't win either game but an LA tie in the Kings final contest earned them only one point, so the Flyers were champions by the slimmest of margins. Andre got his final goal of the regular season in the Flyers last game in Pittsburgh, and wound up the season with 6 goals and 8 assists for 14 points in 18 games. During the time Andre was on the ice, the Flyers scored 17 times, and he was involved in all but three of those. Not a bad average for a rookie, 14 out of 17.

But if Andre's regular season didn't hold enough thrills, there were even more to come in playoffs.

He and Forbes Kennedy each had 5 points in the playoffs — high for the Flyers.

The club's first Stanley Cup competition with St. Louis was marked by tension-filled, hard-fought, double-overtime games. Outstanding goal tending on the part of Hall, Favell and Parent and a hat trick by Paiement in his first Cup game were all lost in the shuffle as the headlines went to the bloody battles between the two clubs.

All season long there had been minor wars when the Blues and Flyers tangled. And watching Game #1 of playoffs was like sitting on a smoldering volcano. Van Impe and Dickie Moore traded blows in that one, which St. Louis won 1-0.

Philadelphia came back in Game #2 and won 4-3. Game #3 was a 3-2 double overtime loss for the Flyers and they also lost Dornhoefer with a double fracture of the right leg and Art Stratton with a severe charley horse, both via the Plager brothers, Barclay and Bob.

Andre didn't break into the scoring column until Game 4 in St. Louis which was played the very next day after Game #3, although that hadn't ended until 1 a.m. Philadelphia time. The Flyers were down two games to one and tempers were quite short. Lacroix got his first Stanley Cup goal at 2:26 of the first period on a power play, but it wasn't enough to help the Flyers. The Blues scored twice when they were shorthanded and Andre, playing left point on the power play both times, was caught going the wrong way. He didn't alibi regardless of how badly he felt as the Flyers lost 5-2. Watson, Bob Plager, Picard and Lou Angotti got into a brawl in the first period. And Simon Nolet, called up to replace Dornev and Stratton, was put out of action in the first period via a Plager check.

When the clubs returned to Philadelphia Saturday, April 13, for Game 5 there was more of the same. Andre had three assists in that game on the Flyers last three goals in the 6-1 win, but his performance and that of Rosey Paiement, who had the hat trick, didn't rate any headliness in Sunday's papers because of the bloody battle which started at 10:47 of the third period.

The Flyers were ahead 4-0 in a game the Blues had hoped to make the last of the series, and with 10 minutes to go in the 3rd period, all hell broke loose.

It started innocently enough when Picard shoved Laforge behind the net. Claude jabbed back and they both fell to the ground. That was the signal. Kennedy took on Bob Plager. Picard decked Laforge, flattening him cold, with a punch from the side. Favell moved in on Plager and then took on Moore, whom he'd been heckling from the bench through the whole game. Picard decked Van Impe with another blind side blow. Miszuk took on Craig Cameron. Everyone else was in it in some way because both benches had emptied. Parent, Hall and reserve Blues goalie Seth Martin were the only ones not involved, although Bernie fell to the ice when he got too close to the action as an interested spectator.

Allen had reshuffled his lines for that 5th Game and Ed Hoekstra centered Sutherland and Rochefort;



Doug Favell, left, and Ed Van Impe were among the principals in Flyers' brawl with St. Louis Blues last season.

Kennedy had LaForge and Hannigan, while Andre centered Selby and Don Blackburn.

And it was the Lacroix-Blackburn combination which brought the Flyers back from the brink of disaster in Game #6.

Tuesday, April 16, was one of the happiest days of Lacroix's life. But in the beginning it looked like it was going to be one of the saddest.

Andre couldn't get the club moving at all in the first two periods. In fact no one could. Hall had to make only six saves in the first period and a bare three in the second, two of those on shots by defenseman Gauthier. Parent had been brilliant with 11 saves in the first period and 16 in the second but a first period power play goal by Gerry Melnyk got by him for the only score.

Being outshot by the opposition, and badly, was nothing new to the Flyers. That happened more often than not during the season. But this was it. If they lost there was no tomorrow.

Lacroix hadn't taken a shot all game. He was benched at the start of the third period in favor of Angotti, who had hardly played at all in more than a week. Lou went on the line with Selby and Paiement. Suddenly the club came to life and shots rained on Hall from all directions. He made 17 saves,

almost double what he had in the first two periods combined, and turned everything aside.

With a couple minutes to go, the Blues fans got to their feet and began applauding their heros. There were 58 seconds showing on the scoreboard clock when Parent was pulled in favor of an extra forward — Lacroix. It was the first time Andre'd been on the ice all period.

Moore took a shot at the Flyers open net. Miszuk deflected it enough to keep it from going in. The Flyers moved up ice with seconds ticking away. Van Impe flipped the puck towards the Blues goal where Hoekstra and Lacroix were positioned. Hoekstra tipped it towards Lacroix at the corner of the net. Andre lifted it over Hall's left shoulder into the opposite side for the game-tying goal.

Just 15 seconds showed on the clock when the red light went on. The crowd grew still slowly. They couldn't believe it. Neither could the Flyers. It was Lacroix's first and only shot of the game, and "it was the biggest goal of my life," Andre said afterwards. "I saw two of them rush Van Impe but he got it through them. I stayed back and that was it." Again, it sounded so simple. The Flyers nearly smothered their young center, joyously pounding and hugging him.

Andre's last ditch heroics had all the ear-marks of a movie script — John Wayne leading the cavalry charge to rescue a besieged fort from the Indians. But if the third period had the Hollywood touch, the over-time was straight out of 'Believe it or Not.' No Hollywood film writer worth his salt would have had the guts to submit a script of what actually happened.

Both clubs had great scoring chances in the first over time with Parent and Hall tested at every turn. Bernie had 15 saves and Hall 14. But neither could be beat.

The game went into the second over time period. And at 8:42 of the second over time, as the lines were changing, Don Blackburn flipped the puck backhanded from the Blues blue line, just to keep it in their zone. And it went in! 2-1, Flyers, in double overtime. It was eight minutes before 1 a.m. in Philadelphia.

Blackie was tripped after he got the puck away and watched it go in while prone on the ice. It looked as though Hall would make the save until defenseman Ray Fortin cut in front of the net and just ticked the puck enough to change its direction. Hall didn't have time to move to stop it.

It seemed only poetic justice for Blackie who'd suffered through a

bad year, and it looked like the Flyers were indeed 67-68's 'team of destiny.' But with veteran Doug Harvey playing an exceptional game on defense, St. Louis won the 7th Game 3-1. It was a tough loss for the Flyers but it had been a wonderful year and the Spectrum fans gave the club a standing ovation at the start of the game as well as at the end.

Before playoffs were over, Poile and Allen announced that for the 68-69 season, Andre was going to be reunited with his Quebec wings, Gendron and Nolet right from the start of training camp.

"Andre is an individualist. He's hard to play with. He played well for us but he can do better. He is used to Nolet and Gendron and they are used to him," Poile said. "They accounted for 270 points last year with Quebec, so there's no doubt they can score."

And this fabulous French line is being counted on heavily to provide the Flyers with the same kind of fire power this season. Andre's 87 points came in just 54 games for the Aces. Gendron tied Andre as the League's third highest scorer with 29 goals and 58 assists, while Nolet captured the scoring title with 96 points on 44 goals and 52 assists.

Andre proved he can score last year, in Philadelphia as well as Quebec, but people still ask 'what about his size?'

"He's just as big as Mike Walton, Dave Keon or Stan Mikita," Poile shoots back in answer. "He makes up for his lack of size by his moves. He's very quick. He knows what to do to get out of most jams and he should get smarter the more he plays in the NHL," Poile added. "At least I hope he will."

Andre used his size or lack of it to advantage in one of the playoff games last year. He was being pursued by big Noel Picard. Just as Picard reached for Andre, Andre ducked under his outstretched arm and scooted past him out of reach.

Of course if Andre starts scoring and the French line moves for the Flyers like it did for the Aces last year, Lacroix will become a definite target for opposing players. "That doesn't bother me," Andre said. "I know what to do out there." He will also have some heavy checkers on his side to help keep the opposition honest.

Lacroix has been a headline maker and marked for greatness throughout his hockey career.

He is the youngest of 14 children, seven boys and seven girls, by name Raymond, Herve, Marcel, Maurice, Claude, Jacques, Lorraine, Bertha,

Pierrette, Monique, Colette, Francoise and Helene. But Andre is the only one to play hockey, and he started when he was nine. He also played baseball and football in high school, but hockey was his first love and making the NHL his life long ambition.

He was born and raised in Lauzon, Quebec, a small town across the St. Lawrence River from Quebec, and played his first junior hockey with the Jr. Canadiens in Montreal in 63-64. He had 30 points in 34 games that season. The following year, he was the star of Peterborough's Junior A club in the Ontario Hockey Association. A first All Star Team selection he was also named the League's Most Valuable Player.

He also had his worst scare in hockey playing at Peterborough.

"I had a big lead in the scoring race with a ways to go in the season, when I got hit in the eye with a stick," Andre recalls. "I couldn't see. They rushed me to a hospital and I had to lay there for more than a week with both eyes bandaged. The doctors were afraid I would irritate the injured eye by using the good one, so they covered both." The only visitor permitted Andre during this time was his coach. "I've always thanked God for letting me recover."

Lacroix repeated as Most Valuable Player of the OHA in 65-66 and one of the players he beat out for that honor those two years was Bobby Orr, then at Oshawa.

Andre finished with 119 points in 49 games with Peterborough in 64-65 — 45 goals and a League leading 74 assists. He won the OHA scoring title in 65-66 with 120 points — 40 goals and 80 assists in 48 games.

When he was turned pro at Quebec, the Aces attendance automatically went up. His parents and most of his family attended every game. All but one of those 13 brothers and sisters are married and they have accounted for 40-some nieces and nephews for 'Uncle Andre,' some almost as old as he. (One brother is a priest).

His first full year at Quebec, 66-67, he had 49 points in 67 games but really blossomed as an AHL scorer last season.

Andre gives coach Stasiuk much of the credit for his becoming a scorer.

"Vic told me at the start of last year to shoot more," Andre says. "He told me to take the good shots when I got them, and to forget about passing so much." He also is quick to credit his teammates.

"I did not do those things by myself," he says of his fantastic records at Quebec. "If it weren't for Gendron and Nolet, I wouldn't have had the chances I had. They passed to me when they could have shot themselves. And I have been lucky to be in the right spot at the right time too," Andre says smiling. He smiles a lot.

Also, Andre puts his club's success ahead of his own, and even if he's had a good night scoring, if the team hasn't won, he's not pleased.

There are more than 30 trophies in the Lacroix house symbolic of Andre's hockey ability. And bulging scrapbooks, carefully kept by one of his sisters, detailing his entire career. Those press notices and trophies — to say nothing of the new car he was given — would be enough to turn the head of any youngster (he was only 23 on June 5). But Andre has never let it go to his head. He is friendly and down to earth with fans and teammates. He is modest and polite. He points to Bobby Hull and Jean Beliveau as examples of stars who are stars on and off the ice. And consciously or unconsciously, Lacroix has modeled himself after them. Not bad examples for any hockey player.

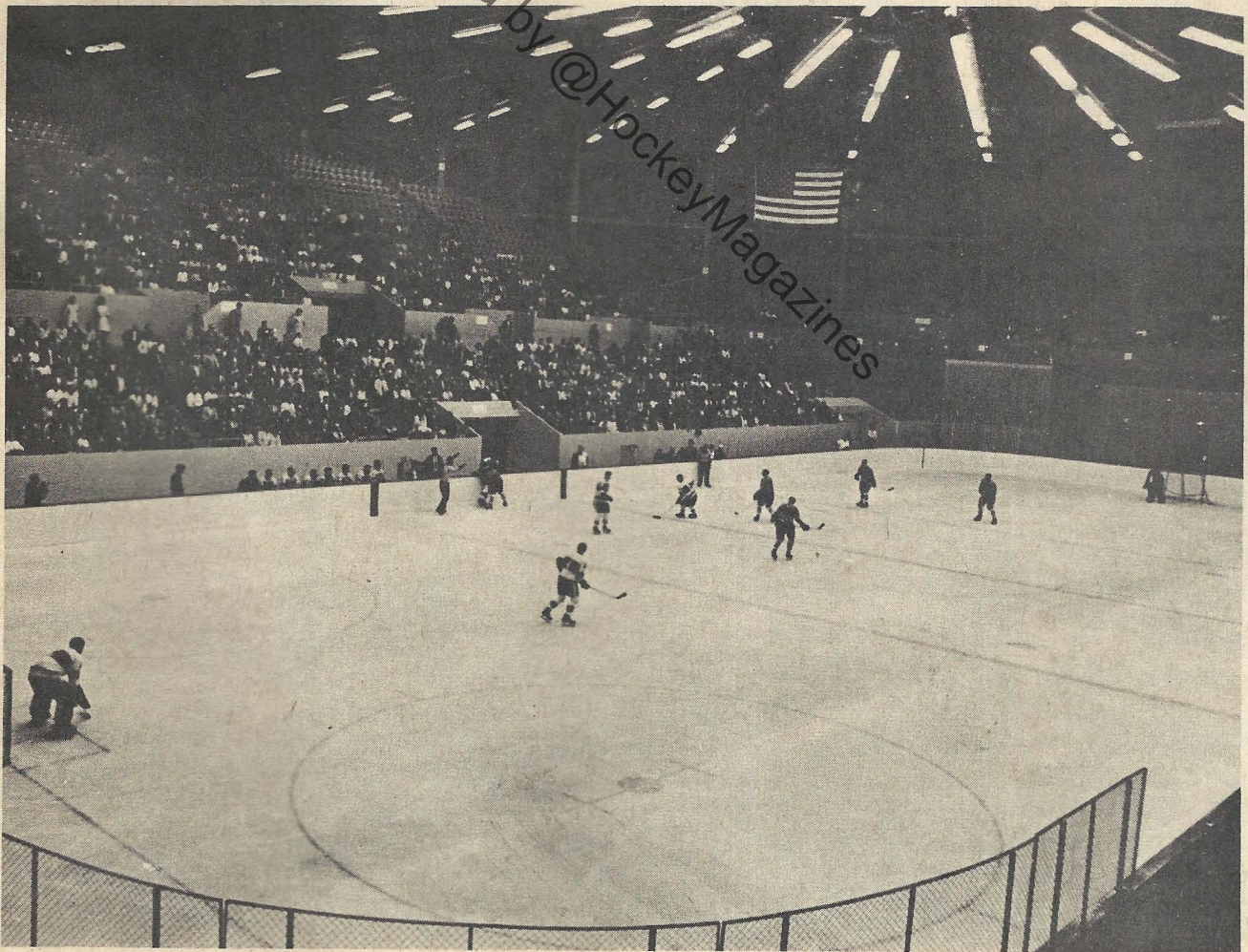
Andre has all the physical tools of greatness. He can skate and shoot and pass and score. He has imagination on the ice and a style of play that transmits instant excitement to the fans. You can feel it stir through the crowd when he goes out on the ice. This is a quality found in super-stars in every sport — a charisma, if you will, to draw people to the stadium or arena on their mere presence. Philadelphians came to see Lacroix last season, first to see if what they'd heard was true, and then they returned to see him again.

Philadelphia had a sports hero like this some years back — Bobby Shantz, a pitcher for the Athletics. He was Andre's size too, and he drew the fans on his name alone whenever he was pitching. Shantz was small and quick and had all the ability, just like Andre. He was a southpaw, and Andre is a lefthanded shot. Shantz first came to the A's in mid season and was a sensation. His first full year in the League, he was named the American League's Most Valuable Player. No one will be surprised if Andre turns out to be a second Shantz in this respect either. MVP might be too much to expect this year, but Rookie of the Year, now that's an immediate possibility. ●

MINOR HOCKEY HIT SUMMER BOOM ON FLORIDA COAST

When it's playoff time in hockey circles elsewhere, on Florida's balmy Sun Coast the hockey season is just beginning.

The St. Petersburg Amateur Hockey Association (the southernmost group in the Eastern U.S. that is recognized by the A.H.A.U.S.) just completed a summer long program in which about 100 Florida youngsters — most of them only recently exposed to hockey — continued to learn the finer points of the sport.



Long-range view of boys' hockey contest during summer at Bayfront Center.



Jack Maker, one of prime movers of unique summer-long hockey program for youngsters in St. Petersburg, Florida, walks to rink with son Billy, 14.

One of the prime movers of the unique effort was Jack Maker, an engineer with Honeywell, Inc. at Tampa, Florida.

A native New Englander (he played at Babson Institute, Wellesley, Massachusetts and later as a semi-pro at Weymouth, Mass.), Maker came to St. Pete six years ago and brought with him a strong desire to create local interest in his favorite sport.

Although at first it might have seemed like building an igloo in Arabia, the effort appears to be paying dividends. Following the 1967 summer program, for example, more than 1,200 Tampa Bay area sports fans jammed Bayfront Center (the only rink in the region) to watch the program's two most advanced clubs cap the season with a playoff game.

Maker coached the Tri-Tech Rangers while Des Killen, a former McGill University player, coached the Aerosonics. The clubs' uniforms match their National Hockey League counterparts and are part of the regulation equipment furnished by their local sponsor.

Originally, Maker and his associates started their hockey program in conjunction with the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department.

"We spent our first summer teaching the fundamentals of hockey to boys who had never skated before," Maker said. "The city expressed a desire to continue this type of program for boys 10-14. But we already had a group of players who exceeded the city's age limits so in 1966 we met with some local business leaders, organized the St. Pete AHA, gathered the first 'graduates' of the city's school plus a handful who had played hockey up north and undertook our program to further develop their hockey skills."

"Now, as boys in the 10-14 city group improve, they join our advanced (up to 18) group," Maker continued. "I'm sure there are many boys down here from the North who have played hockey before but just are not aware of our program," he added.

He plans to rectify this through newspaper ads and announcements and hopes to form a third advanced team. "We have several potential sponsors who are eager to back a team," Maker noted. Tri-Tech, one of the current sponsors, is a St. Petersburg plastics firm while Aerosonics of nearby Clearwater, Fla. is an electronic engineering concern. There is also talk among the boosters of building a second rink.

Bayfront Center's busy winter season, hosting conventions, ice shows, and eight games of the Jacksonville, Fla. Rockets of the Eastern Hockey League dictated the St. Pete AHA's summer program, Maker explained. "In summer, it's often too hot here in the daytime for tennis or other sports so hockey offers a welcome activity to a young athlete," he added.

The summer program consists of three two-hour sessions a week through September. Bayfront Center is a first-rank hockey facility, Maker added, complete with air conditioning.

(The rink, by the way, is only a block and a half from the exotic St. Petersburg waterfront. It is not unusual for Maker and his son, Billy, 14, one of his star hockey pupils, to sail their sloop to hockey practice and amble, skates strung on hockey sticks, 'neath palm trees to practice.)

Working with boys who have had little or no exposure to hockey is actually an advantage, Maker claims. "They have no bad habits so we're able to teach them the right way to play from the beginning," he said.

"They're learning hockey on a lined rink with boards, regulation goals, proper equipment and experienced officials," Maker noted. "When I learned the game on a pond in Massachusetts, we sometimes had to use overshoes for the goal and had no lines on the ice. I didn't learn what offside was until I reached prep school. For the most part, we just played shinny and I think many youngsters learning under such conditions develop bad habits that have to be broken before they can be taught to play correctly."

In addition to teaching hockey, the program also provides adult companionship for several fatherless boys. "Like most of the other boys, they had never seen ice or skated before," Maker said. "In school they were doing poorly — failing in some instances — but after joining our program and learning they must maintain at least a C average to participate, three of these boys have become straight-A students."

Asked to compare his boys' ability with their contemporaries around the U.S., Maker said, "I feel I could form a team from the best of our players and compete favorably against teams from Minnesota, Massachusetts and other hockey-minded areas. We probably wouldn't win right away but we'd give 'em a battle."

If nothing else, Maker's players can boast the best sun-tans in American youth hockey. ●



Close in look at the action as youngsters aged 10-14 get their fill of summer hockey.

The Bobby Hull Line by C.C.M.

*the best line of
hockey equipment
ever made for
youngsters*

- Helmets • Shoulder Protectors • Elbow Pads
- Gloves • Pants • Shin Guards • Skates • Sticks

**SEE THE BOBBY HULL LINE AT
YOUR NEARBY C.C.M. DEALER**



C.C.M.

A division of
Levy Industries Limited



NATIONAL HOCKEY LEA

OCTOBER

Fri. 11—	Detroit	at	Boston
	St. Louis	at	Chicago
	Minnesota	at	Oakland
Sat. 12—	Montreal	at	Pittsburgh
	Los Angeles	at	St. Louis
Sun. 13—	Toronto	at	Detroit
	New York	at	Chicago
	Philadelphia	at	Boston
	Los Angeles	at	Oakland
Wed. 16—	Montreal	at	St. Louis
	Pittsburgh	at	Toronto
	Philadelphia	at	New York
	Boston	at	Oakland
	Minnesota	at	Chicago
Thurs. 17—	Montreal	at	Minnesota
	New York	at	Detroit
	Boston	at	Los Angeles
	Pittsburgh	at	Philadelphia
Sat. 19—	Chicago	at	Toronto
	Boston	at	Pittsburgh
	Los Angeles	at	Minnesota
	Oakland	at	St. Louis
Sun. 20—	Montreal	at	Detroit
	Los Angeles	at	New York
	Oakland	at	Chicago
Tues. 22—	Oakland	at	Minnesota
Wed. 23—	Montreal	at	Los Angeles
	St. Louis	at	Toronto
	Oakland	at	New York
	Chicago	at	Pittsburgh
Thurs. 24—	St. Louis	at	Boston
	Minnesota	at	Philadelphia
Fri. 25—	Montreal	at	Oakland
Sat. 26—	Boston	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Minnesota
	Philadelphia	at	Los Angeles
	St. Louis	at	Pittsburgh
Sun. 27—	Montreal	at	Boston
	Toronto	at	New York
	Chicago	at	Detroit
	Philadelphia	at	Oakland
Wed. 30—	Montreal	at	Toronto
	Pittsburgh	at	New York
	Boston	at	Minnesota
	Chicago	at	Los Angeles
	Philadelphia	at	St. Louis
Thurs. 31—	New York	at	Philadelphia
	Boston	at	Detroit

NOVEMBER

Fri. 1—	Chicago	at	Oakland
Sat. 2—	Detroit	at	Montreal
	Philadelphia	at	Toronto
	Pittsburgh	at	Los Angeles
	Minnesota	at	St. Louis
Sun. 3—	Montreal	at	Philadelphia
	Minnesota	at	New York
	Chicago	at	Boston
	St. Louis	at	Detroit
	Pittsburgh	at	Oakland
Wed. 6—	Toronto	at	Minnesota
	New York	at	Los Angeles
	Philadelphia	at	Boston
	Detroit	at	Chicago
	St. Louis	at	Pittsburgh
Thurs. 7—	Pittsburgh	at	Montreal
	Minnesota	at	Detroit
	St. Louis	at	Philadelphia
Fri. 8—	New York	at	Oakland
Sat. 9—	St. Louis	at	Montreal
	Toronto	at	Los Angeles
	Detroit	at	Minnesota
	Philadelphia	at	Pittsburgh
Sun. 10—	Montreal	at	Detroit
	Toronto	at	Oakland
	New York	at	Chicago
	St. Louis	at	Boston

Tues. 12—	Oakland	at	Los Angeles
Wed. 13—	Boston	at	Toronto
	St. Louis	at	New York
	Detroit	at	Oakland
	Pittsburgh	at	Chicago
	Philadelphia	at	Minnesota
Thurs. 14—	Toronto	at	Montreal
	Boston	at	Philadelphia
	Detroit	at	Los Angeles
	Chicago	at	Pittsburgh
Sat. 16—	Oakland	at	Montreal
	Chicago	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Pittsburgh
	Detroit	at	St. Louis
	Los Angeles	at	Minnesota
Sun. 17—	Montreal	at	New York
	Toronto	at	Chicago
	Oakland	at	Boston
	Los Angeles	at	Philadelphia
	Minnesota	at	St. Louis
Wed. 20—	Detroit	at	Montreal
	Pittsburgh	at	Toronto
	Los Angeles	at	New York
	Chicago	at	Minnesota
	Oakland	at	St. Louis
Thurs. 21—	Montreal	at	Philadelphia
	Los Angeles	at	Boston
	Oakland	at	Pittsburgh
Sat. 23—	Minnesota	at	Montreal
	Detroit	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Boston
	Chicago	at	St. Louis
	Oakland	at	Philadelphia
	Los Angeles	at	Pittsburgh
Sun. 24—	Toronto	at	Boston
	Oakland	at	New York
	Minnesota	at	Chicago
	Los Angeles	at	Philadelphia
Wed. 27—	Montreal	at	Los Angeles
	Toronto	at	Pittsburgh
	Chicago	at	New York
	Boston	at	St. Louis
	Detroit	at	Philadelphia
	Oakland	at	Minnesota
Thurs. 28—	St. Louis	at	Detroit
	Pittsburgh	at	Chicago
Fri. 29—	Montreal	at	Oakland
Sat. 30—	Minnesota	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Boston
	Philadelphia	at	St. Louis
	Pittsburgh	at	Los Angeles

DECEMBER

Sun. 1—	Montreal	at	Chicago
	Toronto	at	New York
	Minnesota	at	Boston
	Philadelphia	at	Detroit
	Pittsburgh	at	Oakland
Wed. 4—	New York	at	Montreal
	Toronto	at	Minnesota
	Detroit	at	Pittsburgh
	Chicago	at	St. Louis
	Philadelphia	at	Los Angeles
Thurs. 5—	Montreal	at	Boston
	New York	at	Detroit
Fri. 6—	Philadelphia	at	Oakland
Sat. 7—	Chicago	at	Montreal
	New York	at	Toronto
	Detroit	at	Boston
	Pittsburgh	at	St. Louis
	Minnesota	at	Los Angeles
Sun. 8—	Toronto	at	Pittsburgh
	Detroit	at	New York
	Boston	at	Chicago
	St. Louis	at	Philadelphia
	Minnesota	at	Oakland
Wed. 11—	Montreal	at	Toronto
	Boston	at	New York
	Detroit	at	Los Angeles
	St. Louis	at	Chicago
	Pittsburgh	at	Minnesota

GUE 1968-69 SCHEDULE

Thurs. 12—	St. Louis	at	Montreal
	Toronto	at	Philadelphia
	Detroit	at	Oakland
Sat. 14—	Philadelphia	at	Montreal
	St. Louis	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Minnesota
	Chicago	at	Boston
	*Oakland	at	Detroit
	Los Angeles	at	Pittsburgh
Sun. 15—	Philadelphia	at	New York
	Pittsburgh	at	Boston
	Minnesota	at	Detroit
	Oakland	at	Chicago
	Los Angeles	at	St. Louis
Tues. 17—	Pittsburgh	at	Philadelphia
	Oakland	at	Minnesota
Wed. 18—	Los Angeles	at	Montreal
	Oakland	at	Toronto
	Chicago	at	New York
Thurs. 19—	Los Angeles	at	Boston
	Chicago	at	Detroit
	Minnesota	at	Philadelphia
Fri. 20—	St. Louis	at	Oakland
Sat. 21—	Boston	at	Montreal
	Detroit	at	Toronto
	New York	at	St. Louis
	Philadelphia	at	Los Angeles
	*Minnesota	at	Pittsburgh
Sun. 22—	Montreal	at	Boston
	Toronto	at	Detroit
	Minnesota	at	New York
	Pittsburgh	at	Chicago
	Philadelphia	at	Oakland
Wed. 25—	Toronto	at	Chicago
	New York	at	Philadelphia
	Oakland	at	Boston
	Detroit	at	Pittsburgh
	St. Louis	at	Minnesota
Thurs. 26—	Toronto	at	Montreal
	Oakland	at	New York
	Pittsburgh	at	St. Louis
	Minnesota	at	Los Angeles
Fri. 27—	Philadelphia	at	Detroit
Sat. 28—	New York	at	Montreal
	Los Angeles	at	Toronto
	Boston	at	St. Louis
	*Chicago	at	Minnesota
	Oakland	at	Pittsburgh
Sun. 29—	Montreal	at	New York
	Boston	at	Detroit
	Los Angeles	at	Chicago
	Oakland	at	Philadelphia
Tues. 31—	Montreal	at	Pittsburgh
	Minnesota	at	Detroit

JANUARY

Wed. 1—	Oakland	at	Toronto
	Detroit	at	Chicago
	St. Louis	at	Los Angeles
Thurs. 2—	Pittsburgh	at	Montreal
	Boston	at	New York
	Chicago	at	Philadelphia
Fri. 3—	St. Louis	at	Oakland
Sat. 4—	*Chicago	at	Montreal
	New York	at	Toronto
	Boston	at	Minnesota
	Detroit	at	St. Louis
	Philadelphia	at	Pittsburgh
Sun. 5—	Montreal	at	Chicago
	Toronto	at	Philadelphia
	Minnesota	at	New York
	Pittsburgh	at	Detroit
	Los Angeles	at	Oakland
Tues. 7—	Montreal	at	Minnesota
	Los Angeles	at	St. Louis
Wed. 8—	Philadelphia	at	Toronto
	St. Louis	at	Chicago
Thurs. 9—	Oakland	at	Montreal
	Toronto	at	Boston
	New York	at	Philadelphia
	Los Angeles	at	Detroit
	Minnesota	at	Pittsburgh

Sat. 11—	Boston	at	Montreal
	Los Angeles	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Detroit
	Chicago	at	St. Louis
	Philadelphia	at	Minnesota
	Oakland	at	Pittsburgh
Sun. 12—	Pittsburgh	at	Boston
	Oakland	at	Detroit
	Los Angeles	at	Chicago
	*St. Louis	at	Minnesota
Tues. 14—	New York	at	Los Angeles
Wed. 15—	Detroit	at	Montreal
	Boston	at	Toronto
	Chicago	at	Oakland
	Philadelphia	at	St. Louis
	Pittsburgh	at	Minnesota
Thurs. 16—	Montreal	at	Philadelphia
	Minnesota	at	Boston
	Pittsburgh	at	Detroit
	Chicago	at	Los Angeles
Fri. 17—	New York	at	Oakland
Sat. 18—	Chicago	at	Montreal
	Detroit	at	Toronto
	New York	at	St. Louis
	*Boston	at	Philadelphia
	Pittsburgh	at	Los Angeles
Sun. 19—	*Toronto	at	Boston
	Detroit	at	Philadelphia
	Pittsburgh	at	Oakland
	*St. Louis	at	Minnesota
Tues. 21—	All-Star Game	at	Montreal
Thurs. 23—	Oakland	at	Montreal
	Toronto	at	St. Louis
	Los Angeles	at	New York
	Boston	at	Detroit
	Philadelphia	at	Chicago
	Minnesota	at	Pittsburgh
Sat. 25—	Philadelphia	at	Montreal
	Toronto	at	Pittsburgh
	*Chicago	at	New York
	St. Louis	at	Boston
	*Oakland	at	Detroit
	Los Angeles	at	Minnesota
Sun. 26—	*Montreal	at	New York
	Toronto	at	Detroit
	Minnesota	at	Boston
Sun. 26—	Los Angeles	at	Chicago
	Pittsburgh	at	Philadelphia
	Oakland	at	St. Louis
Wed. 29—	Minnesota	at	Montreal
	Toronto	at	Los Angeles
	Detroit	at	New York
	Boston	at	Oakland
	St. Louis	at	Pittsburgh
Thurs. 30—	New York	at	St. Louis
	Boston	at	Los Angeles
	Chicago	at	Philadelphia
Fri. 31—	Toronto	at	Oakland

FEBRUARY

Sat. 1—	New York	at	Montreal
	St. Louis	at	Detroit
	Chicago	at	Minnesota
	Philadelphia	at	Pittsburgh
	Oakland	at	Los Angeles
Sun. 2—	*Montreal	at	Chicago
	Toronto	at	St. Louis
	Pittsburgh	at	New York
	Detroit	at	Boston
	Minnesota	at	Philadelphia
Tues. 4—	Detroit	at	Philadelphia
	St. Louis	at	Los Angeles
Wed. 5—	Montreal	at	Oakland
	Minnesota	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Pittsburgh
	Boston	at	Chicago
Thurs. 6—	Montreal	at	Los Angeles
	Boston	at	St. Louis
	Chicago	at	Detroit

(cont'd on page 80)

(cont'd from page 79)

Sat. 8—	Montreal	at	Minnesota
	Oakland	at	Toronto
	*St. Louis	at	New York
	Philadelphia	at	Boston
Sun. 9—	Los Angeles	at	Pittsburgh
	Montreal	at	St. Louis
	Toronto	at	Chicago
	Philadelphia	at	New York
	Oakland	at	Boston
	*Los Angeles	at	Detroit
	*Pittsburgh	at	Minnesota
Tues. 11—	Los Angeles	at	Montreal
	Chicago	at	Boston
Wed. 12—	Minnesota	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Oakland
	Philadelphia	at	Chicago
	Pittsburgh	at	St. Louis
Thurs. 13—	Montreal	at	Detroit
	New York	at	Los Angeles
	St. Louis	at	Philadelphia
Sat. 15—	Boston	at	Montreal
	New York	at	Toronto
	Detroit	at	Minnesota
	Chicago	at	Philadelphia
	Oakland	at	Pittsburgh
	Los Angeles	at	St. Louis
Sun. 16—	Montreal	at	Pittsburgh
	Toronto	at	New York
	*Boston	at	Chicago
	Los Angeles	at	Detroit
	Oakland	at	Philadelphia
	Minnesota	at	St. Louis
Wed. 19—	Montreal	at	Toronto
	Detroit	at	New York
	Boston	at	Pittsburgh
	Chicago	at	Oakland
	Philadelphia	at	St. Louis
Thurs. 20—	Los Angeles	at	Minnesota
	Toronto	at	Montreal
	Pittsburgh	at	Detroit
	Chicago	at	Los Angeles
Fri. 21—	St. Louis	at	Oakland
Sat. 22—	Philadelphia	at	Montreal
	Chicago	at	Toronto
	Detroit	at	Pittsburgh
	St. Louis	at	Los Angeles
Sun. 23—	Toronto	at	Minnesota
	Boston	at	New York
	Philadelphia	at	Detroit
	Los Angeles	at	Oakland
Mon. 24—	Minnesota	at	Los Angeles
Wed. 26—	Detroit	at	Montreal
	St. Louis	at	Toronto
	Chicago	at	New York
	Boston	at	Los Angeles
	Minnesota	at	Oakland
Thurs. 27—	Toronto	at	Philadelphia
	Boston	at	Oakland
	Chicago	at	Pittsburgh

MARCH

Sat. 1—	St. Louis	at	Montreal
	Pittsburgh	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Boston
	Detroit	at	Minnesota
	Philadelphia	at	Los Angeles
Sun. 2—	Montreal	at	Detroit
	*Chicago	at	Toronto
	St. Louis	at	New York
	Pittsburgh	at	Boston
	Philadelphia	at	Oakland
Wed. 5—	Los Angeles	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Chicago
	Detroit	at	Boston
	St. Louis	at	Pittsburgh
	Oakland	at	Minnesota
Thurs. 6—	Toronto	at	Montreal
	New York	at	Detroit
	Los Angeles	at	Philadelphia
Sat. 8—	Los Angeles	at	Montreal
	Philadelphia	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Pittsburgh
	Boston	at	Detroit
	Minnesota	at	Chicago
	Oakland	at	St. Louis

Sun. 9—	*Montreal	at	New York
	Los Angeles	at	Boston
	Detroit	at	Chicago
	Oakland	at	Philadelphia
	*St. Louis	at	Minnesota
Tues. 11—	Montreal	at	St. Louis
	Boston	at	Minnesota
Wed. 12—	Toronto	at	Los Angeles
	Pittsburgh	at	New York
	Oakland	at	Chicago
Thurs. 13—	Minnesota	at	Montreal
	Toronto	at	Oakland
	Boston	at	Philadelphia
Sat. 15—	Chicago	at	Montreal
	Boston	at	Toronto
	Detroit	at	St. Louis
	Philadelphia	at	Minnesota
	Pittsburgh	at	Los Angeles
Sun. 16—	Toronto	at	Boston
	Detroit	at	New York
	Philadelphia	at	Chicago
	Pittsburgh	at	Oakland
	Minnesota	at	St. Louis
Tues. 18—	Oakland	at	Los Angeles
Wed. 19—	Montreal	at	Chicago
	Toronto	at	St. Louis
	New York	at	Minnesota
	Boston	at	Pittsburgh
	Detroit	at	Oakland
Thurs. 20—	Pittsburgh	at	Montreal
	Chicago	at	Boston
	Detroit	at	Los Angeles
	Minnesota	at	Philadelphia
Sat. 22—	New York	at	Montreal
	Detroit	at	Toronto
	Boston	at	Chicago
	*Philadelphia	at	Minnesota
	Pittsburgh	at	St. Louis
	Oakland	at	Los Angeles
Sun. 23—	Toronto	at	Chicago
	Boston	at	New York
	St. Louis	at	Philadelphia
	Minnesota	at	Pittsburgh
	Los Angeles	at	Oakland
Tues. 25—	Pittsburgh	at	Minnesota
Wed. 26—	Montreal	at	Toronto
	New York	at	Chicago
	Los Angeles	at	Pittsburgh
	St. Louis	at	Oakland
Thurs. 27—	Toronto	at	Detroit
	New York	at	Boston
	Los Angeles	at	Philadelphia
Sat. 29—	Boston	at	Montreal
	New York	at	Toronto
	Chicago	at	Detroit
	Pittsburgh	at	Philadelphia
	Minnesota	at	Oakland
	St. Louis	at	Los Angeles
Sun. 30—	Montreal	at	Boston
	Toronto	at	New York
	Detroit	at	Chicago
	*Philadelphia	at	Pittsburgh
	Minnesota	at	Los Angeles

STARTING TIMES

(all times are local)

NEW YORK		BOSTON	
Week Nights	7.30 p.m.	Week Nights	8.00 p.m.
Sundays	7.00 p.m.	Sundays and Holidays	7.30 p.m.
March 16	8.30 p.m.	Matinees	2.00 p.m.
Matinees	1.30 p.m.	Jan. 19	1.00 p.m.
Jan. 26, Mar. 9	2.00 p.m.	CHICAGO	
OAKLAND		Night games	7.30 p.m.
Week Nights	8.00 p.m.	Feb. 2, 16	1.00 p.m.
Sundays	7.00 p.m.	DETROIT	
PHILADELPHIA		Week Nights	8.00 p.m.
Week Nights	8.00 p.m.	Sundays	7.00 p.m.
Sundays and Christmas Night ..	7.00 p.m.	Matinees	2.00 p.m.
Matinees	2.00 p.m.	LOS ANGELES	
Jan. 18, Mar. 29	2.30 p.m.	Week Nights	8.00 p.m.
PITTSBURGH		Sundays	7.00 p.m.
Week Nights	8.00 p.m.	MINNESOTA	
Sundays	7.00 p.m.	Week Nights	8.00 p.m.
Matinees	2.30 p.m.	Dec. 25, Jan. 19	7.00 p.m.
ST. LOUIS		Matinees	1.30 p.m.
Week Nights	8.00 p.m.	Jan. 12	12.00 p.m.
Sundays	7.00 p.m.	Feb. 23	1.00 p.m.
TORONTO		MONTREAL	
Night games	8.00 p.m.	Night games	8.00 p.m.
March 2	2.00 p.m.	Jan. 4	4.00 p.m.

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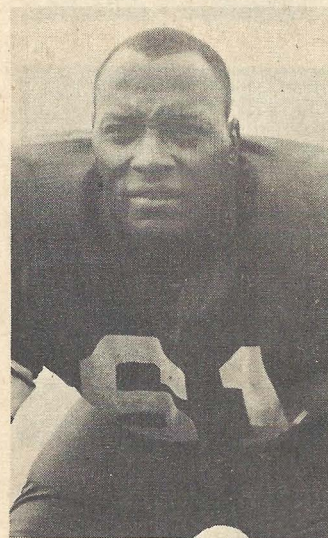
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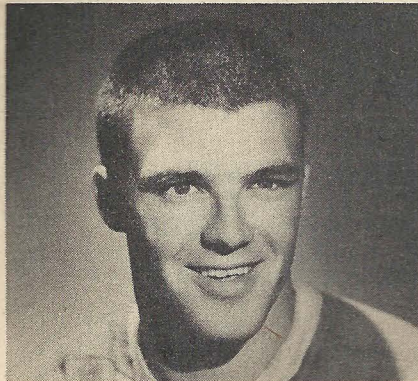
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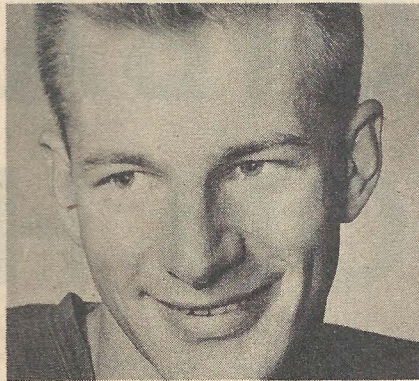
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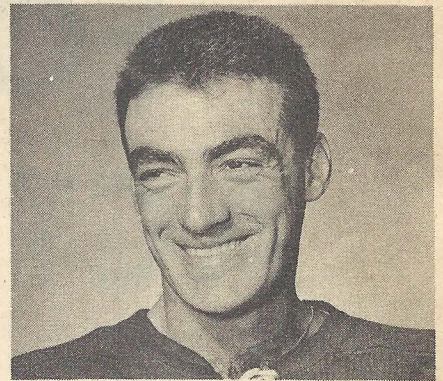
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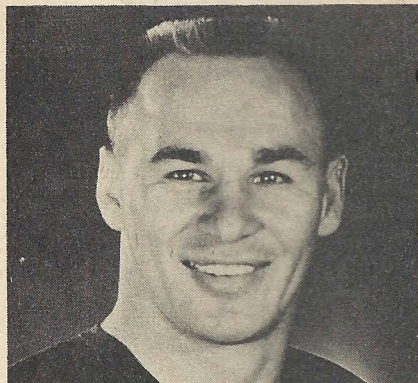
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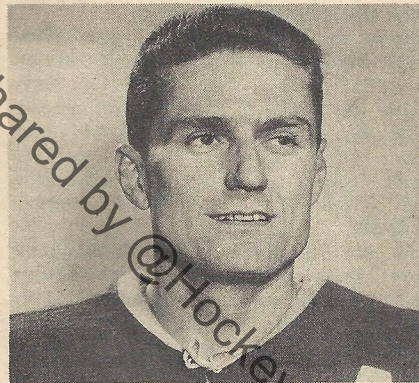
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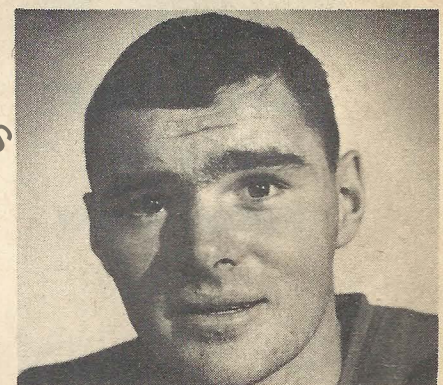
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CAN YOU MATCH THE NAMES?

6—GORDIE HOWE
7—RALPH BACKSTROM
8—WAYNE HILLMAN
9—JIM WATSON
10—CLAUDE LAROSE

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